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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

What did you do with your stimulus check?

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INSIDE

Private Meeting

Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama met privately to talk about uniting the Democratic Party.

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Missing Pyramid

Egyptian archaeologists unveiled on Thursday a 4,000-year-old "missing pyramid."

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Medal of Honor

Growing up in a small rural town, Ross McGinnis was more apt to get in trouble than on the honor roll.

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Fire personnel to inspect bars, restaurants. **PAGE 3**

Geothermal energy, volcano monitors on DOI agenda

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The long delayed plan to set up volcano monitoring stations and the proposed geothermal power plant in the Northern Marianas are on the agenda for the visit by Department of the Interior officials next week.

Doug Domenech, deputy chief of staff for Interior Secretary Kempthorne and acting deputy assistant secretary for insular affairs, is leading a delegation of DOI officials to Hawaii, Guam, and the CNMI. It will be his first visit to the Commonwealth.

Joining Domenech are Nikolao Pula, director of the Office of Insular Affairs; Tim Petty, DOI deputy assistant secretary for water and science; Tom

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LPG prices to rise on Saipan

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

The price of liquid petroleum fuel is poised to rise on Monday, a hike that threatens to place added financial strain on the island's restaurants.

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Landmark wildlife survey on Asuncion island finished

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Scientists with the Commonwealth's Division of Fish and Wildlife have just completed the first quantitative biological survey ever of Asuncion, one of the region's most remote ecosystems.

Previous studies of Asun-

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PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA WILLIAMS

CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife scientists have just completed the first quantitative study of Asuncion, which will aid in monitoring the island's ecosystem.

Report accuses Bush of misrepresenting Iraq intel

By PAMELA HESS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ON THE NET

Senate Intelligence Committee: http://intelligence.senate.gov

WASHINGTON (AP)—A new Senate report gives a fresh shot of adrenaline to the election-year debate over the Iraq war. President Bush and his top officials deliberately misrepresented secret intelligence to make the case to invade Iraq, according to the Senate Intelli-

See REPORT on Page 4

FIRST DIBS JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Two kids got the chance to be the first passengers of the Ferris wheel during the grand opening of the 62nd Liberation Day celebration yesterday at the Garapan Fishing Base. The monthlong celebration will feature cultural presentations, food, crafts, local bands and musicians.

Local

Hotels see slight occupancy boost in April

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Hotels on Saipan saw a slight rise in occupancy in April, according to recently released statistics, yet a key expert cautions the increase is still short of a profitable margin for the hotel sector.

Statistics from the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands show hotel occupancy rates rose to 55.34 percent, a jump of about 6 percentage points over the same month last year. The rise appears largely due to an influx of Asian tourists, yet it is not enough to revive the island's hotel industry, according to the association.

Knight

"We attribute the slight improvement mainly to the Korean, Japanese and Russian markets," association chairwoman Lynn Knight said. "Historically, the month of April is not the best month for tourism, particularly with the rising costs of doing business."

Knight noted that to remain profitable, the island's hotels need roughly a 70-percent occupancy rate. However, the pending start of added nighttime flights to Saipan from Narita, Japan, will provide the island's hotels an added boost, Knight said.

Asian tourism has increased at a significant rate this year, she added, pointing to Marianas Visitors Authority figures showing a 41-percent spike in Korean tourists during April compared to last year and a 9-percent jump among Japanese visitors. Saipan also saw a 127 percent increase in American tourists over last year, which may be attributed to military staff visiting or the recent Flame Tree Festival, Knight said.

Nevertheless, the island's tourism sector appears struggling when compared to figures from Guam's hotels. April statistics from the Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association show a 70 percent average occupancy rate, down 2 points under last year.

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Torres blasts marine monument proposal

Villagomez: Petition has gained about 1,000 signatures

In a heated letter to Commonwealth House lawmakers issued Wednesday, Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan) blasted the Pew Charitable Trust over its bid to establish a national marine monument in the Northern Islands.

Proponents of the monument plan say it will preserve a sensitive ecosystem for the future, yet critics, including Gov. Benigno Fitial, say the plan will strip fishing rights and other powers away from the Commonwealth's inhabitants.

President Bush is expected to release a decision on whether to take up the Pew plan with a preliminary assessment soon, observers say, possibly during World Ocean Day, which is June 8. Yet Torres argues that any move to create the monument amounts to "oppression of the vilest sort" and appealed to the president to forgo the plan entirely.

"Pew is nothing if not slick," Torres writes in the June 4 letter to House Speaker Arnold Palacios, accusing the organization using "rigged" polling data to create the appearance of support for the monument. Torres writes that many local citizens want to hear alternative proposals before considering whether the monument plans should move forward.

Moreover, Torres argues the Pew plan would violate the Covenant that established the Commonwealth because "land taking is being attempted as a unilateral proclamation instead of being approved by the Commonwealth and the U.S. bilaterally…"

Also fighting the Pew plan is CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife director Sylvan Igisomar. In an interview Friday, Igisomar said that contrary to suggestions from Pew, the local government will have little if any power to negotiate the restrictions that the monument plan will impose on local people because the statute being cited to establish the preserve, The American Antiquities Act of 1906, would bar a host of extractive activities such as fishing or mining within the monument area.

"This is not a good idea for us," he said. "Right now, we have all of the authority. Pew wants to talk about co-management" of the trench "but right now, we have all the management."

Despite the opposition to the monument plan, local environmentalists strongly defend the idea, saying it enjoys a significant level of support and will ultimately benefit the Commonwealth. Angelo Villagomez, a volunteer with Beautify CNMI and local coordinator for Pew, says the group's recently circulated petition backing the plan has gained roughly 1,000 signatures. Villagomez took issue with the suggestion that the Pew plan is being forced on local residents.

"From day one Pew has presented this as an opportunity for the CNMI," he said, "This has never been something that was going to happen without the permission of the people of the CNMI."

Furthermore, he said, much of the opposition is simply "rhetoric to scare people," noting the plan is still in its early stages.

Environmentalists will be releasing an economic study on the Pew plan next week and a scientific paper is also being developed, he added.

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PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Adoption of Plaintiff, Darsha Dez'rae M. Camacho and Darshae Dez'mae M. Camacho By: Anthony Mendiola Camacho Defendant.	)	**FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0302** **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 24, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Fire personnel to inspect bars, restaurants

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety's Fire Prevention Unit personnel will be inspecting bars, restaurants, and other business establishments operating at night to inform them of fire safety code requirements.

In a news briefing yesterday, DPS Commissioner Claudio K. Norita said the Fire Division and DPS want to educate the community especially businesses about the existence of a fire code.

"[Fire Division personnel will be] going out as a courtesy and work with businesses to find out the deficiencies and show it to them and they have so many days to fix it so next time [the inspectors] come back when the regulations become effective, businesses won't get slapped with monetary penalty," Norita said.

"We want to let [businesses] know that we want to work with you and work with us on this and allow us to come in and inspect and give you our assessments," the commissioner added.

Firefighter 2 Daniel Suel said they want to inform the community, particularly business owners, that there is a law on fire safety.

"We are going out to the business establishments and conducting fire safety inspections [on] concerned businesses that operate at night such as bars and restaurant operators and so forth," Suel said.

He said they are in the process of amending the regulations to create fees and fines that would be levied on businesses if fire inspectors determine that the operators do not comply with fire safety rules.

Suel said they would also be enforcing the occupancy law.

He said they would be talking with the business managers to see how many people are in the establishments to avoid a situation where people are killed during a fire because of crowding.

"Once our regulations have been adopted by the Attorney General's Office, that's when we go out and start enforcing it," Suel said.

Firefighter 1 Combin Taisakan said that nder Public Law 11-56 or the CNMI Fire Safety Code Act, some provisions authorize the division to inspect business establishments.

Taisakan said they would like to inform the public that because of the existence of such law, they are going to actively conduct public education on fire safety.

"When we speak about fire safety issues, we are talking about fire extinguishers, making sure that each establishment has the required number of extinguishers, [and] the number of exits depending on the number of occupants that would be occupying the building in any given time," he said.

Taisakan said would also check for smoke and fire alarms if required and any other fire protection systems that are required under the provision of the uniform fire code.

"We have already started. This is actually an ongoing process. We have found out that some businesses are still failing to comply with the law because they say they are not aware that there is such a law," he said.

"We put them on notice that this is more of a courtesy inspection that we are doing now. Everyone should take advantage of it. Let us know if they do need an inspection. Because at this time, there will be no charge," he said.

Taisakan said the existing rules and regulations have several flaws "so we are amending them to address our concerns as well as the businesses' concerns that were brought to us during our inspection period.

He said they have already come across several establishments that have violations that need to be corrected. The violations, however, are not major, he added.

TRADITIONAL CANOE JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A traditional Refaluwasch canoe is displayed inside the CNMI Gallery for Arts and Culture during the opening of the Annual Women's Exhibit on Capital Hill Monday morning. The regular exhibit hours will be 9am to 7pm on weekdays and from 9am to noon on Saturdays. The event, which feature creations made by the women of the community, will run until July 3.

More signatures for 'transparent Legislature' petition

Nearly 300 more signatures were submitted yesterday in support of a citizen petition for a more transparent Legislature.

Most of the new signatures were collected on Tinian. They were added to the 2,500 signatures previously filed with the Attorney General's Office.

Rep. Tina Sablan, who started the petition as a private citizen last year, said more signatures are expected from Rota.

Though the Open Government Act applies to all other government agencies, the Legislature passed a law in 1994 to exempt itself from the act's provisions. The petition calls for a law re-applying the government transparency law to the Legislature.

Sablan hopes the initiative can be placed on the ballot in the November election for the Northern Marianas' first delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. However, it is not clear whether initiatives will be allowed on the ballot for the federally mandated election.

The Constitution requires that popular initiatives to amend a general law should be placed on the ballot at a regular general election. There is an unresolved legal question as to whether the federal election in November is considered a "regular general" election.

"But of course, the first step is to transmit the signatures," said Sablan.

To get placed on the ballot, a popular initiative to amend a law must include the signatures of at least 20 percent of the certified voters.

When Sablan started the petition last year, she gathered only 2,500 signatures. It was about 500 signatures short of the requirement.

But because of the low turnout in the November 2007 election, the 20-percent requirement was reduced to 2,400 signatures. Voters who fail to participate in an election are automatically removed from the voters list. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

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REPORT

From Page 1

gence Committee.

The panel put a new spin on old charges, comparing claims made in five speeches by top Bush administration officials with intelligence reports. The committee says officials wrongly linked Saddam Hussein to the Sept. 11 attacks and al-Qaida; claimed Iraq would give terrorist groups chemical, biological or nuclear weapons, and said Iraq was developing drone aircraft to spread chemical or biological agents over the United States.

None was borne out by intelligence.

The presumptive Democratic nominee for president, Sen. Barack Obama, has staked his campaign on his consistent opposition to the Iraq war. The presumptive Republican nominee, Sen. John McCain, has trumpeted his unflagging support for the war, if not how it was waged.

The report released Thursday follows, by years, an earlier committee effort that assessed the quality of prewar intelligence on Iraq and found it severely lacking. This report is known as "phase II" and spawned a nasty partisan fight in the committee. It plows well-tread political ground by contrasting what Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, then-Secretary of State Colin Powell and then-Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said between October 2002 and March 2003, when the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq began, with intelligence reports that since have been released.

"These reports are about holding the government accountable and making sure these mistakes never happen again," said the committee's chairman, Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va.

According to Rockefeller, the problem was the Bush administration concealed information that would have undermined the case for war. "We might have avoided this catastrophe," he said.

Bush's press secretary, Dana Perino, said the problem was flawed intelligence heading into the war. "We had the intelligence that we had, fully vetted, but it was wrong. And we certainly regret that," she said.

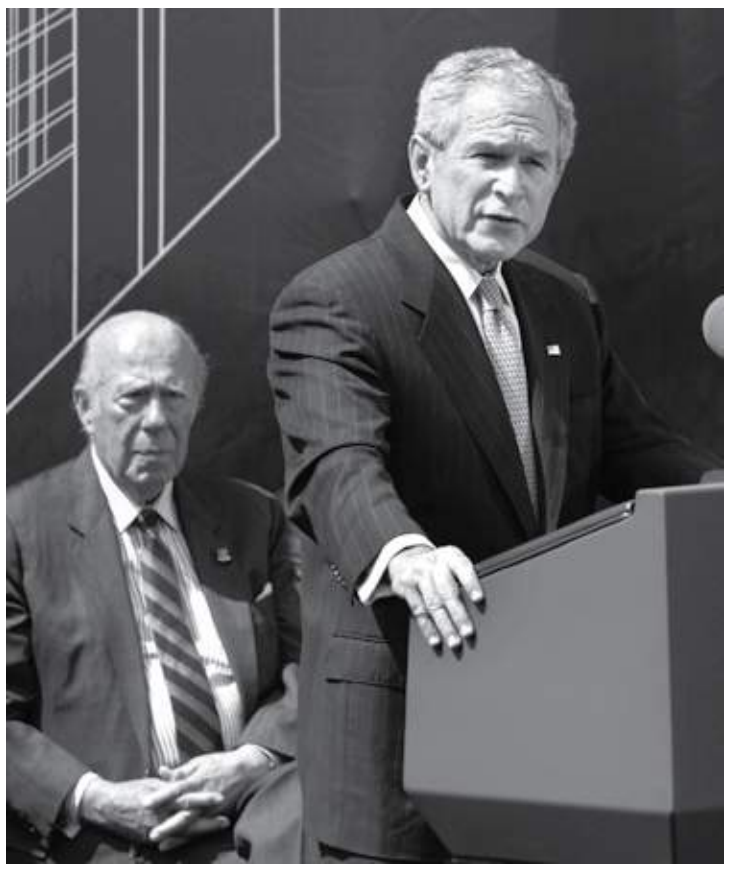
The Senate report, however, found that intelligence supported most of the administration's statements about Iraq before the war. But officials often did not mention the level of dissension or uncertainty in the intelligence agencies about the information they were presenting.

Two Republicans, Sens. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska and Olympia Snowe of Maine, endorsed the report.

The committee's five other Republicans, however, assailed it as a partisan exercise. They accused Democrats of covering for their own members, including Rockefeller and Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., who made similar statements about Iraq based on the same intelligence the Bush administration used.

"It is ironic that the Democrats would knowingly distort and misrepresent the committee's findings and the intelligence in an effort to prove that the administration distorted and mischaracterized the intelligence," said Sen. Christopher Bond of Missouri, the committee's top Republican.

A second report issued by the committee Thursday says Pentagon officials concealed from U.S. intelligence agencies potentially useful tips from Iranian agents in 2001, including that Tehran allegedly sent hit teams to Afghanistan to kill Americans.



AP

President Bush speaks at a ceremonial groundbreaking of the United States Institute of Peace at Navy Hill, Thursday, June 5, 2008, in Washington. At left is former Secretary of State George Shultz.

The Iranians also told Pentagon employees at a December 2001 meeting in Rome of a purported tunnel complex used to store weapons and covertly move personnel out of Iran after Sept. 11, 2001, according to the committee report. In addition, the Iranians told of a long-standing relationship with the Palestine Liberation Organization and the growth of anti-government sentiment inside Iran.

The information was questionable, the report suggests, citing the sources: a discredited former arms dealer who was peddling a plan to overthrow the Iranian government and a former U.S. official whose leads had failed to yield any substance for the CIA.

Nonetheless, the report sheds new light on the mistrust and lack of cooperation by Cheney and Rumsfeld with the CIA and the State Department after 9/11.

Committee Republicans, in a dissent, said the report had nothing to do with the original scope of the review - prewar intelligence on Iraq. They said it would be a "disappointment" for people looking for evidence of Pentagon wrongdoing.

The report focuses on the series of meetings in Rome held over three days in December 2001. The U.S. was fighting in Afghanistan and working on initial planning for the Iraq war.

Then-Deputy National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley authorized the meetings. Two Pentagon employees, one of whom worked for then-Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Doug Feith, went to Rome to meet with two Iranians - one a current member of the security service, the second a former member. Manucher Ghorbanifar, an Iranian middleman already dismissed by the CIA as untrustworthy, also attended, as did a representative from an unspecified foreign government's intelligence service. Michael Ledeen, a former Pentagon official and an analyst with the conservative American Enterprise Institute, arranged the meeting and attended.

In one meeting, Ghorbanifar pressed for a change of government in Iran and, on a napkin, outlined a plan to do that, saying he would need $5 million to set it in motion, according to the report.

The report said Hadley failed to fully inform then-CIA Director George Tenet and then-Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage about the meeting. But Hadley and the Pentagon were within their rights to conduct the meeting, the report said.

White House spokesman Tony Fratto said Hadley notified all parties concerned appropriately.

The report said Defense Department officials refused to allow "potentially useful and actionable intelligence" to be shared with intelligence agencies. The head of the DIA was briefed on the meeting but was not authorized to keep a written summary or it or to discuss it on the orders of Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz.

Ledeen said Thursday that the meetings were not kept secret from U.S. intelligence, and said he had briefed the U.S. ambassador to Italy twice about them.

"Any time the CIA wanted to find out what was going on all they had to do was ask," he said.

One of the two Pentagon representatives, Larry Franklin, now faces jail time after pleading guilty to espionage-related charges unrelated to the Rome meeting. Franklin told the committee he believed the intelligence gathered at the meetings "saved American lives." He passed word of the alleged hit teams to a special operations forces commander in Afghanistan.

LANDMARK

From Page 1

cion—an uninhabited island dominated by a towering dormant volcano to the north of Saipan—collected only limited data on the health of its wildlife population, but the new survey will be the first to provide key figures on the environment there that biologists can use to track changes over time.

"It's the first survey like it of flora and fauna on Asuncion," said division wildlife biologist Laura Williams. "It's history-making."

Data on the island's fish, birds and animals is still being analyzed, Williams added, meaning complete figures likely will be unavailable until next year.

However, it appears that some species threatened elsewhere in the Commonwealth are thriving on Asuncion and the island's ecosystem, despite a relatively low rate of species diversity, is prospering, Williams said.

Division scientists have already surveyed the other islands in the Commonwealth, yet rough waters around Asuncion have largely prevented many expeditions there.

To conduct the survey, Williams and a team of scientists journeyed to Asuncion May 16 and camped on the island for 10 days. The team had to carve small trails through the island's forest, dominated by Kafu and tropical almond plants, to conduct the survey, which found a variety of birds and animals.

The data gathered on the island will provide a "baseline for people to come back later on and redo what we did to compare how the ecosystem is doing," much like the surveys conducted on the Commonwealth's other islands, Williams said.

Wildlife technician Paul Lisua said the Asuncion's bird population is "multiplying" because the island is rarely visited by humans and fish are "abundant." One surprise, he said, was finding a fish species known as the black jack, which are uncommon in the waters around more populated islands like Saipan.

Among the avian species the survey found on the island are forest birds like the Micronesian honeyeater, the Micronesian starling, the collard kingfisher, and the Micronesian megapode, which is a federally listed endangered species. Sea birds like brown boobies, black noddies and terns can also be found there.

LPG

From Page 1

In an exclusive interview Friday, Dionisio Lopez, chairman of Saipan Industrial Gas, revealed the cost of liquid petroleum gas is set to rise significantly for individual customers, while hotels and other large consumers will receive a 15-day notice of the increase.

A common source of fuel for cooking, liquid petroleum gas is a byproduct of oil refining and Lopez said the increase is largely due to higher oil prices in the global market. However, he noted that despite the added cost of transporting fuel to the island, the prices on Saipan are still lower than they are on Guam.

"The prices, yes, are going to go up," he said. But "with all the other expenses, the price on Saipan—I don't know why—is cheaper than on Guam," Lopez said.

According to Lopez, the price of 20-lb gas tanks—often used in household cooking—will rise by $1.50 to $30.50. Larger 40-lb tanks will increase in price by $2.50 to $59.50, while the cost of 90-lb tanks—found in many of Saipan's restaurants—will go up by $5 to $118.

Lopez's primary competitor on Saipan, Wushin Corporation, has yet to announce whether its prices will also rise. A source with the company said no update is currently available.

Despite seeing lower costs for the gas than their counterparts on Guam, restaurateurs on Saipan say the price hike will only compound the economic hardships they face in light of rising electricity costs and the recent increase in the local minimum wage. Ultimately, they said, customers may have to absorb the added costs through higher prices.

Annie Hayes, operations manager for Herman's Modern Bakery, said it seems local eateries lately are being "bombarded with increases" in costs.

Rick Jones, the head of the 360 Restaurant, said that while the added increase may seem small, it comes at a time when many establishments are already struggling.

"It doesn't help anybody," Jones said. "It just makes it harder and harder to do business. At some point, we're going to have to look at what others are doing and think about raising prices."

GEOTHERMAL

From Page 1

Murray, senior research scientist at the U.S. Geological Survey; and Larry Broun, emergency coordinator at DOI.

The team will accompany Janet W. Creighton, the recently appointed deputy assistant to President Bush and director of intergovernmental affairs, on her first visit to Guam.

Contrary to what many expect, immigration "federalization" will not be focus of the federal officials' trip to the Commonwealth. But Pula said in a media statement that the team would "probably discuss other important issues that may come up including the CNMI immigration legislation recently signed by the President."

The main issue for discussion is the planned military buildup in Guam and the region.

"Ms. Creighton's presence elevates the importance of the issue at a higher level of the federal government," said Pula.

Creighton and the DOI team will meet Gov. Felix Camacho and other Guam officials. They will be briefed by senior Navy and Air Force officials, including Rear Admiral William French.

The DOI team will meet with local officials regarding energy issues on Guam and the Northern Marianas to follow up on congressional interest on alternative energy in all insular areas. In addition, USGS scientists will discuss their proposal to establish volcano-monitoring stations in the CNMI, and a possible geothermal energy plant.

The group will also coordinate emergency management issues with local homeland security officials.

Further, the DOI team will visit area hospitals and discuss a health summit planned for September 2008 with the governors and health care administrators. This is a follow up to Kempthorne's interest in improving health care on the islands, said Pula.

In its recently concluded trip to Hawaii, the DOI team met with Gov. Linda Lingle and delivered a $10.5 million grant to compensate the state for the costs of hosting citizens of the so-called "freely associated states"—Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Palau—who have settled in Hawaii.

The multipurpose trip "demonstrates Interior Secretary [Dirk] Kempthorne's continued support and focus on a variety of island issues," he added.

Judge in Miura case: Focus on extradition laws

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona yesterday postponed the hearing in Kaziyoshi Miura's request to modify his bail and asked the prosecution and Miura's lawyers to focus on relevant extradition laws.

Manglona reset the bail modification hearing and status conference to June 19 at 10am following a request by William J. Fitzgerald, one of Miura's three lawyers.

The judge told the Attorney General's Office and the defense counsel to look into previous cases relevant to Miura's case rather than engage in factual disputes.

Manglona mentioned some cases dealing with extradition rights and laws.

"I'm not treating this as a regular criminal case. This is not a criminal case filed by the CNMI government," said Manglona, noting that even the caption of the case specifically states that it is an extradition matter.

At the hearing, Fitzgerald told the court that they are requesting postponement of the bail modification hearing and that they had already discussed it with assistant attorney general Jeffery Warfield Sr.

Fitzgerald said he wants to explain why there is a need for extra time.

"I'm not sure whether we're on the same page," said the defense lawyer as he cited the government's opposition that mentioned a California detective's affidavit.

Fitzgerald said they are going to produce affidavits that would contradict the affidavits of the California detective.

He said all those violent characterization of Miura by the detective in the affidavit were already dismissed by Japanese courts.

At this juncture, Warfield stood up to object that Fitzgerald was already discussing details when in fact they were requesting a postponement in the hearing.

Manglona asked Fitzgerald not to discuss details about the case.

As Fitzgerald tried to explain further, the judge stopped him.

Manglona then provided the parties "case laws" that according to the judge will guide them in Miura's extradition case.

Miura's other counsel, Bruce Berline, told the media after the hearing that they need more time to reply to the California detective's affidavit.

"That's the first time we've ever seen that affidavit. We got that affidavit yesterday morning. We were served with the memorandum Wednesday night. And we weren't served with the affidavit until Thursday morning," Berline said.

Given what was in the affidavit and its bias, they had to ask for more time in order to provide Manglona with the whole story of what's going on, he added.

Warfield told *Saipan Tribune* that they really didn't agree to the postponement, but it is just a matter of professional courtesy to each other.

"They called us yesterday afternoon, asking to continue the date. As a matter of professional courtesy we were not going to oppose it. …We understand that they need to get some additional information so we're prepared to have the judge set a new date," Warfield said.

In Miura's motion for bail modification, his lawyer argued that the Japanese national should be released temporarily because a defendant in a murder case is entitled to bail in the CNMI and in California.

Berline argued that contrary to the prosecution's earlier assertion, a person charged with murder and even murder in the first degree in the CNMI is entitled to a bail hearing and may be released on bail.

But in the government's opposition, Warfield and assistant attorney general Mike Nisperos Jr. said Miura poses a danger to the community as he is "a desperate man in a desperate situation."

Any citizen who might stand between Miura and his freedom would be in grave danger, according to the prosecutors.

Warfield and Nisperos said that under the CNMI law, Miura is statutorily prohibited bail because he is being extradited to answer for the charges of special circumstances murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

The charges, they pointed out, are punishable by life imprisonment or death under the laws of the State of California.

Attaching an affidavit of the California detective in support of the complaint for Miura's extradition, the prosecutors narrated how the defendant plotted the murder of his wife, Kazumi, in November 1981 to collect insurance benefits.

"There is no justification to suffer the danger he poses to the people of the Commonwealth if he is released from custody," the prosecutors said.

The 60-year-old Miura was arrested by Saipan authorities at the Saipan International Airport on Feb. 22 in connection with the murder of his wife in L.A. in 1981.

Miura had already been convicted in Japan in 1994 of the crime. The verdict, however, was overturned by Japan's high court 10 years ago.

Deadline for name corrections, inclusions on Guam Wall nears

HAGATÑA, Guam—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Gov. Felix P. Camacho, and the War in the Pacific National Historical Park are moving forward with the Memorial Wall Restoration Project and continue to provide the public the opportunity to add missing names or correct existing names on the Wall until June 30, 2008.

"I encourage the community to take advantage of this application period to have their names or the names of their relatives properly displayed on the Memorial Wall at the Asan Bay Overlook," said Bordallo. "The Memorial Wall is an important tribute to the generations that endured the occupation of World War II on Guam, and we must restore the Wall to ensure that each individual is honored and recognized."

The Memorial Wall, created under Public Law 103-197 and dedicated in 1994, pays tribute to those who suffered or died on Guam during the occupation of World War II. The Wall honors all U.S. Marines, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Coast Guardsmen who died during the Battle for Guam from July 1, 1944 to August 10, 1944; the people of Guam who died or suffered personal injury, forced labor, forced march, or internment during the occupation of Guam from December 8, 1941 to July 21, 1944.

Office of Delegate
Madeleine Z. Bordallo
120 Father Duenas
Avenue Hagatna, Guam
www.house.gov/bordallo

Office of Gov. Felix C.
Camacho
Ricardo J. Bordallo
Governor's Complex,
Adelup
http://guamgovernor.net/

The War in the Pacific National Historical Park was awarded federal special project funding to renovate the Memorial Wall at the Asan Bay Overlook with the opportunity to correct and include missing name panels on the Wall. The projected completion date for the refurbishing of the Memorial Wall is expected by summer 2009.

To learn more about the application process for correcting or including names on the Memorial Wall, visit Bordallo's or Camacho's websites. Applications will be accepted until June 30, 2008. ***(PR)***

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MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting for Tuesday, June 10, 2008 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Plumeria Room, Saipan World Resort; Saipan, MP.

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- Office Space Matters
- Administrative/Board Matters

III CONSULTANT REPORTS
- Legal Counsel Reports*
  - APLE 501
  - Home Loan Program
- Board Consultant Reports
  - Financial Statements – April 2008
  - Flash Reports – April 2008

IV OLD BUSINESS
V NEW BUSINESS
VI EXECUTIVE SESSION
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.
VII MISCELLANEOUS
VIII ADJOURNMENT

* It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive Session in its entirety.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, Board of Trustees

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

History calls

You don't have to be a supporter of Sen. Barack Obama, Ill.—in fact, you don't have to be a Democrat—to feel good about the fact that he has won enough support to gain his party's nomination for the presidency. As White House press secretary Dana Perino, no Democrat, graciously acknowledged this week, Mr. Obama's "historic achievement reflects the fact that our country has come a long way." In his most famous speech, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. lamented that "the Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land." Forty-five years to the day after the Rev. King outlined his dream, an African American will almost certainly accept his party's nomination for the presidency.

Mr. Obama's achievements in the primary campaign transcend race. More than any presidential candidate in recent years, he was able to mobilize large numbers of voters—young people and African Americans in particular—who had not previously participated in the political process. The energy and optimism unleashed by the Obama campaign allowed it to harness the power of the Internet to raise breathtaking sums of money, a gratifying proportion of it in relatively small amounts. Against a formidable—indeed, supposedly unstoppable—opponent, Mr. Obama ran a campaign that would have been impressive for a veteran; it was amazing for a relative newcomer to the political scene.

As the race turns definitively to the general election, Mr. Obama faces political and substantive challenges. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, N.Y., basically matched Mr. Obama's support among Democrats; Mr. Obama needs to help salve the wounds of defeat and do his best to unite the party. His eventual victory masked notable deficits in his ability to attract certain demographics—older voters, Hispanics, white working-class men. His choice of a vice presidential candidate has become particularly fraught, as Ms. Clinton seems to be trying to strong-arm her way onto the ticket.

The general election will, no doubt, echo some of the debates of the primaries, both legitimate and phony: whether Mr. Obama has adequate experience for the job, whether his foreign policy views are naive, whether his prior associations—especially with the Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr.—should be held against him. It should also be a time for airing many issues that were barely discussed during the primary campaign. The role of the government in providing health care, the wisdom of additional tax cuts, the direction of the Supreme Court, the best way forward in Iraq—on all of these, Mr. Obama and his Republican opponent, Sen. John McCain, Ariz., have important differences for voters to weigh. Mr. McCain's proposal this week that the two nominees hold weekly, town-hall-style debates, and Mr. Obama's apparent openness to such encounters, offers some hope that the general election can be waged on the elevated plane that both nominees say they want.

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Mortgaging America

By ERIC J. WEINER
Special to the Los Angeles Times

America's for sale. Just ask Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson.

With the U.S. economy in shambles, Paulson just spent four days touring the Middle East, hat in hand, looking for investors to bail us out. Specifically, on Monday, Paulson met with heads of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, the world's largest "sovereign wealth fund" with roughly $875 billion in assets, and encouraged them to buy American businesses.

Of course, it's nothing new for U.S. officials to reach out to the deepest pockets in the world in times of crisis. Just a century ago, J.P. Morgan became an American icon by single-handedly rescuing the financial markets during the stock market panic of 1907.

What is new, however, is that our economic problems have become so big that they no longer can be remedied by a few affluent individuals or investment firms. Only extremely wealthy countries have the resources to clean up this mess. So Paulson is forced to visit flush, oil-slicked Arabian emirates from Qatar to Abu Dhabi and beg for help.

This is economic globalization in its most raw form -- and a dramatic change in the way the worldwide economy operates. Today, the real power in international finance is held by rich countries, not wealthy institutions, corporations or private investors. And these countries are flexing their increasingly bulging muscles through investment vehicles known as sovereign wealth funds.

Sovereign wealth funds, or SWFs, basically are mutual funds that invest the excess capital generated by a region or country. The first one was established by Kuwait when it was a British territory. After World War II, as Kuwait was negotiating independence, its leader, Sheik Abdullah al Salem al Sabah, asked the British to help him create a fund that would invest the nation's oil profits. The Kuwait Investment Board, which eventually became the Kuwait Investment Authority, today has about $250 billion in assets and is one of the largest sovereign wealth funds in the world.

As the British Empire crumbled, the government created similar funds for many of its territories and colonies (including the islands of Kiribati, which profitably exported guano for fertilizer). Meanwhile, other countries with growing wealth started setting up similar funds, such as the oil-rich nations of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Norway and Russia, as well as China, Singapore and South Korea, which had highly productive economies that also generated lots of excess capital.

Still, it's only recently that SWFs have become major players on the financial stage.

In 1990, the funds held just $500 billion in assets combined. Today, that figure is about $3.5 trillion. For comparison purposes, that's more than all of the assets controlled by all of the hedge funds in the world. And by 2012, the figure will be at least $10 trillion, according to estimates by the International Monetary Fund.

The primary reason for this explosion is, in a word, oil. As its price has soared from less than $25 a barrel in 2002 to more than $125 a barrel today, the value of sovereign wealth funds held by oil-rich nations has skyrocketed. And this trend isn't expected to change any time soon.

The new power of SWFs has been on graphic display during our recent mortgage crisis. They've essentially rescued the international financial system by injecting tens of billions of dollars into troubled banks. Citigroup, for instance, raised about $20 billion from a consortium of SWFs from Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Singapore. UBS secured nearly $10 billion from a Singapore fund that now controls 9 percent of the bank. Merrill Lynch took in about $11 billion from SWFs from Kuwait, Singapore and South Korea. And even august Morgan Stanley got $5 billion from China's SWF.

These investments are steadying global financial markets by ensuring that none of these key banks goes under. But there are important questions to ask about the increasing influence that sovereign wealth funds have over our economy. As SWFs grow in size, they will be in a position to control large swaths of the global business world. That means foreign governments, which control the funds, will increasingly own sizable stakes in companies in such important industries as computer technology, aerospace and biotechnology.

These kinds of investments raise "profound questions" of geopolitical power, as former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers pointed out a few months ago at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Summers' essential complaint is that there is no way of knowing if there is a political agenda behind a country's investment in these essential industries.

To that end, the International Monetary Fund is trying to draft a code of "best practices" that SWFs can adopt voluntarily. The funds generally have been resistant to the idea, although Abu Dhabi and Singapore have signed an agreement with the Treasury Department that lays out principles for the countries' funds to be more transparent and not politicize their investments.

But on a practical level, the growing influence of SWFs really brings up much more basic concerns. What does it mean for Americans to have decisions about our jobs, our home loans, our school loans and so on to ultimately rest with foreign governments? What does it mean to surrender this level of control over our own economy?

The trouble is, we don't know. And that raises perhaps the most important question of all: What if the cure to our mortgage crisis is more deadly than the disease itself?

Eric J. Weiner is the author of What Goes Up: The Uncensored History of Modern Wall Street as Told by the Bankers, CEOs, and Scoundrels Who Made It Happen.

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5 myths about the job that's not 'worth a bucket of warm spit'

By DAVID GREENBERG
Special to the Washington Post

David Greenberg is a professor of history and media studies at Rutgers University, a columnist for Slate and the author of Nixon's Shadow: The History of an Image.

It's that time again: As the presidential primaries draw to a close, the airwaves are filled with chatter about running mates. Pundits love the veepstakes: It lets them indulge their taste for horse-race commentary, encourages them to show off their knowledge of obscure political trivia (did you know that Florida Sen. Mel Martinez is ineligible because he was born in Cuba?) and helps them dash off columns without so much as picking up a telephone. But the veepstakes also, inevitably, drives the media to circulate a host of irresistible tidbits—marred only by the regrettable fact that they have almost no basis in reality. Herewith a few.

1. A vice presidential candidate should win his or her home state for the party.

It probably hasn't made much difference to the outcome since 1960, when Lyndon B. Johnson helped put Texas in John F. Kennedy's column. Nevertheless, when pundits review their short- lists, the first question they usually ask is whether the prospective veep comes from a winnable swing state. Long ago, when state parties had tightly run political machines, that logic made some sense, and even into the postwar era it governed many candidates' thinking. But not so much today. Edmund Muskie might have helped the Democrats win Maine in 1968 (en route, it should be noted, to losing to Richard M. Nixon), and Walter F. Mondale's presence at Jimmy Carter's side probably enabled them to hang onto Minnesota when Hurricane Reagan swept away 44 states in 1980. More often, though, the No. 2 either fails to carry his or her home state or simply isn't chosen with such hopes in mind in the first place. Of this year's Democratic contenders, only Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland promises to nab a battleground state for Sen. Barack Obama. On the Republican side, not even Tim Pawlenty, Minnesota's moderate but little-known governor, seems likely to shore up that swing state for the GOP.

2. Ideological and regional balance are vital to a ticket.

This assumption, too, was once valid but no longer holds. In the 19th century, the heyday of political machines, voters felt a strong allegiance to one party or the other, and a race's outcome was determined by how well the party operatives turned out their vote. Because these same operatives picked the nominees—primaries didn't play a decisive role in nominations until 1972—conventions typically featured nasty dustups between a party's ideological wings or regional blocs. Ticket-balancing arose as a way to preserve peace at convention time. So the bosses would pair a Northeasterner with a Midwesterner—and indeed, between 1864 and 1920, two-thirds of all national candidates came from New York, Indiana or Ohio.

But the once-powerful logic of balance has eroded as the parties have become more ideologically uniform: The Republicans are no longer fiercely divided between the Eastern Wall Street Establishment and the Midwestern Main Street wing, and the Democrats no longer have a sizable Southern conservative bloc deeply hostile to their Northern liberal base.

Moreover, voters today choose their candidates on the basis of image more than of party. And so although balancing efforts still sometimes occur—Ronald Reagan's selection of George H.W. Bush in 1980, Michael Dukakis' choice of Lloyd Bentsen in 1988—nominees will more often use their moments in the spotlight to send signals about their own candidacies. They might wish to augment their own profiles, as Bill Clinton did in 1992 by choosing Al Gore—another young Southern moderate—or to seek a bounce from a bold, exciting pick, as Mondale did by tapping Geraldine Ferraro in 1984.

To the extent that ticket-balancing survives, it's in the form of signaling neglected constituent groups that they're not taken for granted. This year, Obama lacks strong support from enough key Democratic voting blocs—Hispanics, Jews, women, gays, seniors and the white working class—that he should be sensitive to their concerns in choosing a veep. John McCain, on the other hand, would do well to bolster his own reputation as a maverick by choosing someone like Colin Powell or Mike Huckabee.

3. Reaching across the aisle to form a bipartisan ticket would be smart politics.

Well, maybe, but it's not going to happen. Every four years, we hear titillating talk that one of the nominees will make a paradigm-shifting move by choosing an understudy from the opposite party. Favorite names served up this year are Sen. Joe Lieberman (who rumor has it used to be a Democrat) as a potential McCain lieutenant and Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel or New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg as possible Obama backstops. This isn't unthinkable; in 2004, John F. Kerry considered putting McCain on his ticket. But the chances of that pairing's coming to fruition were always exceedingly slim, as are the prospects for this year's cross-party dream teams.

The reason is that, as weak as parties have become, the choice of a president and a vice president still defines a party. To turn to the rival institution in this basic act of self-definition would be an abdication—a concession that the party is nothing but a vehicle for the ambitions of individual politicians, not a coherent body with a purpose.

Incidentally, the last president to choose a vice president from the opposite party was Abraham Lincoln, who selected Andrew Johnson in 1864—a pairing that didn't work out very well. (Lincoln was assassinated, Johnson impeached.)

4. Candidates should think "outside the box."

For candidates, as for housecats, the box is there for a reason.

Those who aren't fantasizing about a bipartisan ticket often dream that a nominee will look outside politics altogether for his or her deputy. (Former Hewlett-Packard chief Carly Fiorina is one name bandied about this year.) Washington loves no cliche more than the cliche of Washington's bankruptcy—the myth that only someone with no political experience, usually a mogul or a financier, can fix our political mess. (It's a myth that got the nutty H. Ross Perot 19 percent of the vote in 1992.) But it hasn't happened yet—and probably won't. Occasionally an Arnold Schwarzenegger or a Bloomberg succeeds in high office without government experience. But most politicians canny enough to get a presidential nomination know that the fall campaign isn't the place for a novice to be learning the game.

5. All of this is beside the point: The choice of a running mate doesn't matter.

The aphorisms are legion: John Adams called the vice presidency "the most insignificant office that ever the invention of man contrived or his imagination conceived." Nelson Rockefeller called it "stand-by equipment." John Nance Garner, we often hear, said that the job wasn't "worth a bucket of warm spit," though he didn't actually say "spit." But these days, the vice presidency is worth a lot. Ever since Nixon held the office under Dwight Eisenhower, the office has been growing in power, reaching unprecedented influence under Dick Cheney.

But, does anyone vote based on the veep? The kibitzing over a nominee's choices is clearly out of proportion to the importance of the selection. Given that George H.W. Bush survived the calamitous selection of Dan Quayle in 1988, it's hard to argue that even a bad choice can sink a candidacy—though George McGovern's jettisoning of Tom Eagleton in 1972 sure didn't help his already floundering campaign.

Still, significant numbers of voters tell pollsters that the candidates' veep choices help them decide how to vote in the fall. A March poll by SurveyUSA showed that between 12 and 40 percent of voters, depending on the state and the top of the ticket, said that the vice presidential choice would influence them. And more recent polls show huge swings in how various states break depending on the choices. (In New Mexico, for example, McCain-Huckabee beats Obama-Hagel by 17 points, but McCain-Pawlenty loses to a pairing of Obama and former senator John Edwards by nine points.)

That kind of self-reporting is unreliable, of course. Name recognition alone, for example, probably accounts for the boost that Edwards gives Obama in some polls. But some political scientists do surmise that the choice can shift the popular vote by a smidgen—and even 1 or 2 percent can be enough, in the kinds of close presidential elections we've had in 2000 and 2004, to make all the difference.

Congress needs to remember its role

By MICKEY EDWARDS
Special to the Los Angeles Times

The central feature of American government, the one that made the United States "exceptional" and preserved our freedoms for more than 200 years, is in the process of being destroyed. The enemy is not in Iraq or the hills of Pakistan but in Washington and in cities and towns throughout the United States.

America's founders, it turns out, were not as smart as we thought. They assumed that if they put most of the nation's real powers—over war, taxes and spending—in the hands of the people themselves, through their representatives, those representatives would do their duty and prevent an American president from acting as though he were king.

Congress was not to be a copy of the British Parliament but its exact opposite: Whereas Parliament is essentially an extension of the executive (the prime minister's party always controls Parliament, and its members are expected to enact his or her proposals) and members need not have any connection to the "constituencies" they allegedly represent, the American system requires members of Congress to come from the states they represent and to serve as a check on—not enabler of—the president.

It's a simple enough concept, but one apparently hard for members of Congress to grasp.

Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., was quoted recently bemoaning the fact that legislators were going to have to fend for themselves in November's elections.

"You are going to run on who you are and establish some independence," he told The New York Times, "and that is going to be tougher for some than others."

Having served in Congress myself, I feel sad for those members who are going to find it tough to run as who they are and "establish some independence," but I had assumed that was precisely what they were supposed to do.

The opposite, of course, would be to pretend to be someone other than who one really is, or to have no convictions other than to obey somebody else's directives (presumably those of the president or party leaders). Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has a similar confusion. Interviewed on National Public Radio, she said part of her job as House speaker was to ensure that there would be a Democratic majority in the next Congress. That, of course, is likely to happen regardless of what she does, but that is actually the job of the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee; Pelosi's job is to legislate and to see to it that the House fulfills its constitutional duties as a separate, independent and equal branch of the federal government.

Tom Cole, the Oklahoma congressman who is chairman of the Republican campaign committee in the House, inherited a mess, including a deeply unpopular president and a host of GOP incumbents heading for the hills, and has been unfairly blamed for the party's losses in this year's special elections (full disclosure: He is a friend who once worked on my congressional staff).

But even Cole, who holds a doctorate and is one of the smartest members of Congress, sometimes loses sight of what it means to be a member of the legislative branch. Asked about the desirability of distancing oneself from George W. Bush, Cole told The Washington Post that "it's not for me to second-guess the president of the United States."

Yes, it is. That is precisely the constitutional obligation of a member of Congress—to second-guess, challenge, question and, when necessary, serve as a check on a president.

In November, voters will elect every member of the House and one-third of the members of the Senate. In January, each successful candidate will take an oath to protect and defend the Constitution. Perhaps it would be good for each of them to get a crash course in exactly what that means.

Edwards is a former Republican congressman from Oklahoma. His new book is Reclaiming Conservatism. He is now a lecturer at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°

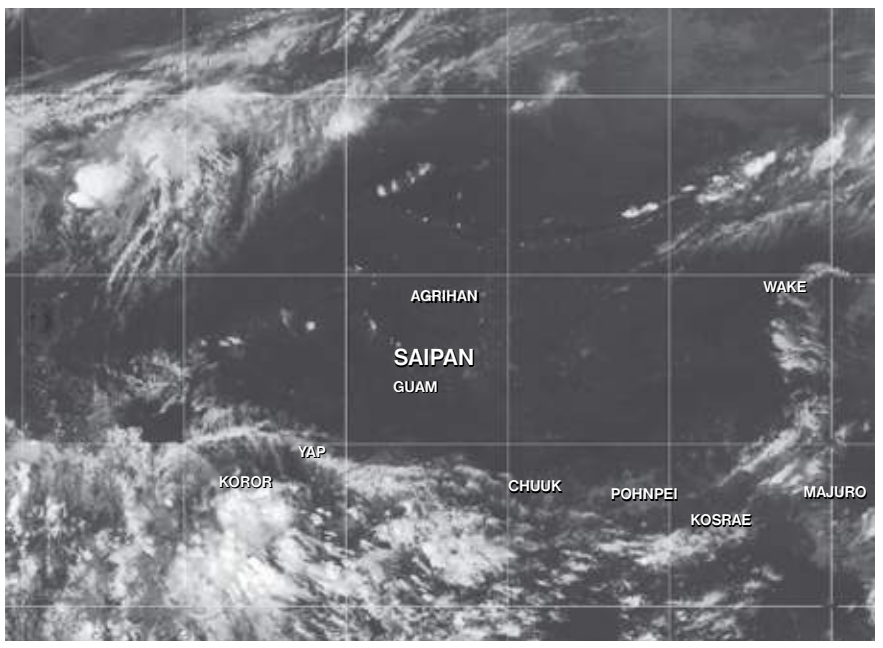
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Majuro	Mostly cloudy	▲85	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲59	▼43
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼72
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Honolulu	Showers	▲83	▼74
London	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼55
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲75	▼60
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼54
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
New York	Partly Sunny	▲92	▼72
Osaka	Cloudy	▲81	▼66
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲71	▼54
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼61
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼58
Salem	Cloudy	▲64	▼46
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲66	▼52
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲73	▼58
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲78	▼66
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲92	▼73

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Numerous showers with locally heavy rainfall and isolated thunderstorms are found in the vicinity of Koror and southward between the equator and 7N from 130E to 140E. Also scattered showers with isolated thunderstorms are occurring southeast of Yap between the equator and 7N from 140E to 150E. Scattered trade-wind showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring southwest of Kosrae between 2N and 4N from 158E to 161E. A weak surface trough embedded in trade-wind flow near Kwajalein is producing scattered showers between 6N and 10N from 163E to 170E. Scattered trade-wind showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of Majuro between 2N and 6N east of 170E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:30AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
8:59AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
4:40PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46AM	6:46 PM
Sunday	5:46AM	6:46 PM
Monday	5:46AM	6:47 PM
Tuesday	5:46AM	6:47 PM
Wednesday	5:46AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:03AM	10:18PM
Sunday	10:04AM	11:03PM
Monday	10:59AM	11:43PM
Tuesday	11:52AM	
Wednesday	12:41PM	12:20AM

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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
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- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 07, 1999

Bond float eyed to retire deficit
The Commonwealth government is mulling over a plan to use a portion of the proceeds from the proposed $60 million bond flotation for deficit reduction in earlier appropriation of capital improvement project funds, according to the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee. Rep. Karl T. Reyes said the move will push other infrastructure projects that have stalled due to lack of funds as well as allow transfer of balance from those that have been completed.

Investments come in trickles
The Foreign Investment Office of the Department of Commerce only issued three new business permits for 1998, a strong indication on how Asia's financial crisis has battered the island's economy. Of the total 596 business licenses issued last year, 130 were one-time 90-day permits, 220 were renewals of one-year permits (a category which no longer exists), and 249 were two-year permits. Some 246 of the two-year permits were renewals.

House OKs $24M for CIP
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio is expected to sign into law a fresh infusion of Capital Improvement Project funds after the House of Representatives approved on Friday a minor amendment to the bill appropriating more than $24 million in construction grants. House members were obviously relieved that the Senate did not press its attempts to alter provisions of the measure, including handing expenditure and reprogramming authority to mayors, which would have further delayed the governor's approval.

June 07, 2000

CUC wants tougher laws
The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has sought stricter penalties against illegal tapping of power and water services, saying the practice has deprived the agency hundreds of thousands of dollars in potential revenues every year. Imposing fines is the only effective deterrent to the unlawful practice, unlike criminal penalties which would not allow the government-owned utility firm to recover the lost earnings and could only burden the justice system, according to CUC Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez.

Teno backs protest against Continental
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has thrown his support to the protest filed by the Commonwealth Ports Authority against Continental Micronesia's continued treatment of Saipan and Guam as co-terminals that has reportedly worked to the disadvantage of the CNMI tourism industry. In his draft letter to the United States Department of Transportation, Mr. Tenorio said recent decisions by Continental Micronesia with regards to its connecting flights created difficulty among travelers going to the Northern Marianas.

Blueprint for new prison unveiled
Air-conditioned rooms, recreational facilities, automatic equipment and state-of-the-art and energy-efficient design will be some of the features of a new prison in Susupe and a juvenile detention in Kagman which the CNMI government will construct by next year. The Prison Task Force yesterday unveiled the blueprints for the two projects during a meeting with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan and other government officials as well as U.S.-based engineers and architects who drew up the plan.

June 07, 2001

Pierce says gov't must cut payroll
In the midst of what he calls "the reality of the CNMI economic maelstrom" and election year, newly-sworn Saipan Chamber of Commerce President Richard A. Pierce suggested that the government reduces its payroll by 10 percent. Pierce said the business sector, being the one which essentially provides the means to support government payroll, must insist that the local government takes action on this issue.

MVA to finalize agreement with Hawaii-based ad agency
Marianas Visitors Authority is set to sign an advertising and promotions agreement with Honolulu-based company Starr Siegle Communications. The contract would be for $2.6 million and will cover the rest of fiscal year 2001 and the whole of fiscal year 2002, according to.

Business

Oil prices hold above $128

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) -- Oil held above $128 a barrel Friday in Asia after rising more than $5 overnight as the dollar swooned against the euro in response to comments by the head of the European Central Bank.

The dramatic reversal in what had been a weakening market came after ECB President Jean-Claude Trichet suggested the bank could raise interest rates and the euro climbed against the dollar. When interest rates rise in Europe, or fall in the U.S., the dollar tends to weaken against the euro. Many investors tend to buy commodities such as oil as a hedge against inflation when the dollar is falling.

Also, a weaker greenback makes oil less expensive to investors dealing in other currencies, and analysts believe the dollar's protracted decline has been a major reason why oil prices have nearly doubled in the past year.

Meanwhile, the dollar held relatively steady against the yen, changing hands above 106 yen in Tokyo's currency market. The euro was trading slightly lower after climbing to levels near $1.56 on Trichet's comments.

Trichet spoke after the bank left a key interest rate unchanged amid concerns about inflation. While Trichet said a change in rates was not a certainty, he said some of the bank's governors favor an increase.

"Oil, which was very weak, rallied on those comments," said Phil Flynn, an analyst at Alaron Trading Corp. in Chicago. "They're out of step with the U.S., which is weakening the dollar."

Light, sweet crude for July delivery rose $5.49 overnight - its biggest single-day price increase in the history of the New York Mercantile Exchange crude contract - to settle at $127.79 a barrel. Larger one-day percentage jumps have taken place in the past.

Midday in Singapore, the contract was up 53 cents at $128.32 a barrel in electronic trading.

Earlier this week, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke indicated that more interest rate cuts are unlikely in the U.S., sending the dollar higher and pushing oil prices lower.

Oil's decline from the record $135.09 hit May 22, though, has come largely on concerns about demand, and the factors that slashed the prices by more than $10 are still present, analysts noted. They said they were uncertain whether Thursday's trading could be the start of a new surge higher or just an exception.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Continental Airlines to cut 3,000 jobs, capacity
DALLAS (AP)—Business travelers are likely to lose out when the fall off-peak season arrives and airlines that have cut flights slap more restrictions on the cheap fares that usually come that time of year. Continental on Thursday became the latest airline to announce cutbacks, saying it will shed 3,000 jobs - more than 6 percent of its work force - and reduce capacity by 11 percent this fall. The industry is battling record fuel costs that have pushed it into its worst crisis since 2001. Amid that, Continental said its two top executives will forgo pay the rest of this year.

Foreclosures hit a record high—and more coming
WASHINGTON (AP)—The foreclosure hammer is hitting ever harder. People lost their homes at the highest rate on record in the first three months of the year, and late payments soared to a new high, too - an alarming sign that the housing crisis and its damage to the national economy may only get worse. Dumping more empty homes on an already glutted market also is likely to put a further drag on home prices - extending a vicious cycle. Slumping home values are being blamed in large part for the rising tide of foreclosures. Troubled borrowers are left owing more to the bank than their homes are worth. They can't sell without taking a huge financial hit, so they just walk away.

Report: Detroit's Big 3 erasing productivity gap
DETROIT (AP)—Detroit automakers - and Chrysler in particular - nearly erased the North American productivity gap with their Asian rivals in 2007 thanks to worker buyouts, leaner plants and other improvements, but they still make less money per vehicle because of higher costs, according to the Harbour Report on manufacturing released Thursday. Toyota Motor Corp. and Chrysler LLC led the industry in productivity, with each averaging 30.37 hours to fully assemble a vehicle. That was a 7.7 percent improvement for Chrysler from 2006, but a 1.5 percent drop for Toyota. Toyota's inefficiencies were largely due to the rapid shift away from trucks and sport utilities as gas prices rose, according to Ron Harbour, a partner in the automotive consulting firm Oliver Wyman whose father began producing the annual Harbour Report in 1994.

Nation

Obama, Clinton talk of uniting Democratic Party

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hillary Rodham Clinton and likely Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama met privately Thursday night to talk about uniting the Democratic Party.

"Senator Clinton and Senator Obama met tonight and had a productive discussion about the important work that needs to be done to succeed in November," their campaigns said in joint statement.

The statement included no details of their talks, as pressure mounted for Obama to invite Clinton to become his running mate.

Robert Gibbs, an Obama spokesman, would not say where the former rivals met, except that it was not at Clinton's home in Washington, as had been widely reported.

Reporters traveling with Obama sensed something might be happening between the pair when they arrived at Dulles International Airport after an event in Northern Virginia and Obama was not aboard the airplane.

Asked at the time about the Illinois senator's whereabouts, Gibbs smiled and declined to comment.

Clinton returned to Washington after the last primaries on Tuesday night, when Obama earned the 2,118 delegates he needed to secure the Democratic nomination. She planned to announce Saturday that she was ending her campaign and supporting Obama.

The meeting followed Clinton's disavowal hours earlier of efforts by some supporters who have urged Obama to choose her as his running mate.

"She is not seeking the vice presidency, and no one speaks for her but her," communications director Howard Wolfson said. "The choice here is Senator Obama's and his alone."

Even as Clinton was bowing out of the race, supporters in Congress and elsewhere were ramping up a campaign to pressure him to put her on the ticket.

Bob Johnson, the billionaire founder of Black Entertainment Television and a Clinton supporter, on Wednesday sent a letter to the Congressional Black Caucus urging the group to encourage Obama to choose Clinton as his No. 2. Johnson said he was doing so with her blessing.

Obama is seeking to become the first black president.

Gates ousts Air Force leaders in shake-up

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Defense Secretary Robert Gates ousted the Air Force's top military and civilian leaders Thursday, holding them to account in a historic Pentagon shake-up after embarrassing nuclear mix-ups.

Gates announced at a news conference that he had accepted the resignations of Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Moseley and Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne - a highly unusual double firing.

Gates said his decision was based mainly on the damning conclusions of an internal report on the mistaken shipment to Taiwan of four Air Force electrical fuses for ballistic missile warheads. And he linked the underlying causes of that slip-up to another startling incident: the flight last August of a B-52 bomber that was mistakenly armed with six nuclear-tipped cruise missiles.

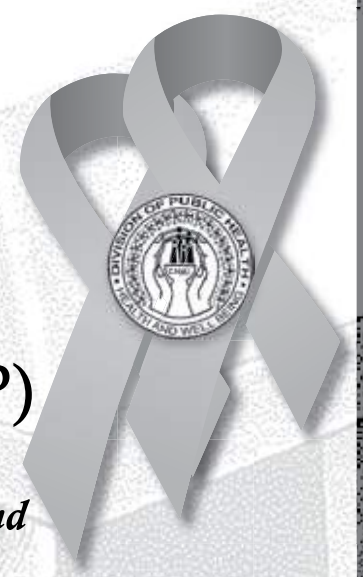
The report drew the stunning conclusion that the Air Force's nuclear standards have been in a long decline, a "problem that has been identified but not effectively addressed for over a decade."

Gates said an internal investigation found a common theme in the B-52 and Taiwan incidents: "a decline in the Air Force's nuclear mission focus and performance" and a failure by Air Force leaders to respond effectively.

In a reflection of his concern about the state of nuclear security, Gates said he had asked a former defense secretary, James Schlesinger, to lead a task force that will recommend ways to ensure that the highest levels of accountability and control are maintained in Air Force handling of nuclear weapons.

In somber tones, Gates told reporters his decision to remove Wynne and Moseley was based on the findings of an investigation of the Taiwan debacle by Adm. Kirkland Donald.

The Breast and Cervical Screening Program (BCSP)



BCSP program PAYS for breast and cervical cancer screening exams:

- ✔ Pap Test
- ✔ Mammogram
- ✔ Clinical Breast Exam (CBE)

To receive these services at no charge, a woman must be:

- Is at least 18 years old
- Have stayed in the CNMI for at least 1 year
- Uninsured or is insured but has a co-payment (BCSP will then take over the co-payment)
- Meet the following income guideline

Income Guideline

Family Size	Maximum Income
1	$20,660
2	$27,880
3	$35,100
4	$42,320
5	$49,540
6	$56,760
7	$63,980
8	$71,290

Family size of more than 8 members, add $3,610 for each additional member.

ENROLL TODAY!

It's as easy as picking up the phone!

Call: 236-8727/31
Fax: 236-8700
Email: cnmibcsp@pticom.com

This ad was brought to you by the CNMI Breast and Cervical Screening Program with funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Suspect in deputy's fatal shooting dies

MONTEAGLE, Tenn. (AP)—A man suspected of killing a Tennessee sheriff's deputy and wounding another officer has died after shooting himself at the end of a daylong manhunt.

David Trillet, a supervisor at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga, says Kermit Bryson died Friday around 12:30 a.m.

Tennessee Bureau of Investigation director Mark Gwyn says agents found Bryson behind his girlfriend's house Thursday evening and negotiated with him for about 20 minutes before he shot himself in the head.

Federal, state and local authorities launched a manhunt for Bryson after the Thursday morning shooting death of Grundy County sheriff's deputy Shane Tate. Monteagle Police Officer Brian Malhoit was grazed by a bullet in the shooting but not seriously hurt.

NY skyscraper hosts two daredevil stunts

AP

Alain Robert, also known as The French Spiderman, pumps his fist at the cheering crowd after hanging a banner on the New York Times building, a new 52-story tower, while climbing it with his bare hands Thursday, June 5, 2008 in New York.

NEW YORK (AP) -- A Manhattan skyscraper that is home to The New York Times became the site of twin daredevil stunts Thursday, with two men scaling the 52-story office tower within a matter of hours.

The first man, Alain Robert, unfurled a banner as he climbed that said "Global warming kills more people than a 9/11 every week." He was arrested when he made it to the top.

Hours later, a second man ascended the building—a stunt that drew the attention of thousands of onlookers, along with TV cameras that captured the drama in real time. Crowds on the street pressed against police barricades to watch, and people clapped and cheered for the climber while snapping pictures on their cell phones.

He, too, was taken into custody as he reached the top. Police said he was charged with reckless endangerment, criminal trespass and disorderly conduct and was awaiting arraignment overnight.

"Only in New York. This is why I live in New York," said 29-year-old Emily Perschetz, who watched the second climber for about 20 minutes.

"You've got to respect them for trying," she added.

At moments during his ascent, the second climber appeared to slow and tire, and officers awaiting him shouted encouragements from the rooftop and even dangled a rope, which he did not take, police said.

Officers became concerned that the man might be an emotionally disturbed copycat, and he was taken to a hospital for a psychiatric evaluation, according to police who identified him as 32-year-old Renaldo Clarke of Brooklyn. There was no working phone number listed under that name and address.

The facade of the newly constructed building, which the Times moved into only last year, is covered with slats that allowed the men to climb the tower like a ladder.

Asia

Sri Lanka bus blast kills 21

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—A bomb ripped through a crowded passenger bus near Sri Lanka's capital during morning rush hour Friday, killing at least 21 people and wounding an additional 47, officials said.

The bombing was the second attack in three days targeting civilians. A blast targeting a passenger train wounded 18 passengers and bystanders in the capital, Colombo, on Wednesday.

The country's military blamed the attack on Tamil Tiger rebels, who did not immediately comment on the blast. If carried out by the rebels, the attack would show their ability to strike deep inside government territory despite a maze of security checkpoints around the capital and its suburbs.

Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said the Tamil Tigers detonated a roadside bomb about 7:35 a.m. (0530 GMT) in the Colombo suburb of Moratuwa as the passenger bus went by.

The attack killed 21 people and wounded 47, he said.

Rebel spokesman Rasiah Ilanthirayan did not respond to calls seeking comment, but the rebels routinely deny such attacks.

The rebels, blamed for scores of suicide bombings and other attacks on civilians, are listed as a terrorist group by the United States, the European Union and India.

Experts: Poor construction in China's earthquake area

AP

A Chinese man rides a bicycle between piles of rubbles from buildings that collapsed during the May 12 earthquake or were demolished afterwards due to damage Xianger, southwestern China's Sichuan province, Wednesday, June 4, 2008.

BEICHUAN, China (AP)—Shoddy construction and poor planning contributed to the toll from China's devastating earthquake, engineers studying the disaster for the government said Thursday, as a lake still swelling behind a wall of debris threatened communities downstream.

Premier Wen Jiabao flew by helicopter to oversee efforts to drain Tangjiashan lake, which was formed when a landslide set off by the May 12 quake blocked a river.

More than 250,000 people in low-lying areas about 30 miles downstream have been evacuated, state media said.

Workers have dug a 1,300-foot-long spillway to release pressure on the unstable wall of mud and rock restraining the lake, Xinhua News Agency said. However, the water level had apparently not risen high enough for it to start having much effect.

As of 8 a.m. Friday, the water level in the lake remained 2 feet beneath the channel, according to Xinhua.

Technicians meanwhile, were keeping a wary eye out not just for increased rainfall but also for further landslides that could plunge more debris into the lake, setting off massive waves.

A bursting of the dam could also threaten a key oil pipeline belonging to state-owned China National Petroleum Corp. that lies just 37 miles from the lake, Xinhua said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

250 Tibetan exiles are detained in Nepal

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Nepalese police broke up an anti-China protest Thursday by more than 250 Tibetan exiles, including many Buddhist monks and nuns, detaining all of them. The protesters managed to break past a police line and reached the gates of the Chinese Embassy's visa office in Katmandu before being pushed back by police. There were brief scuffles between the police and protesters and at least one protester was slightly hurt. Police official Ramesh Thapa said all 250 protesters were detained. They were expected to be released later in the day without charges.

Helicopter crash kills 2 in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Two service members died in a helicopter crash Thursday as they were returning from a maintenance mission in southern Afghanistan, the U.S.-led coalition said. There was no report of hostile activity related to the crash, the coalition said in a statement. The coalition did not reveal the names or nationalities of the deceased pending notification of their families. The helicopter crashed at around 6:30 p.m. in Kandahar province, said Lt. Col. Rumi Nielson-Green, the top spokesperson for the U.S. military in Afghanistan. The bodies of the two victims have been recovered, she said.

Explosives seized near Pakistan capital

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan authorities seized two vehicles carrying about 2,200 pounds of explosives, foiling a possible terror plot near Pakistan's capital, officials said.

Senior police officer Rao Mohammed Iqbal told The Associated Press that several suspects were arrested in the operation late Thursday in the garrison city of Rawalpindi - just days after a suicide car bombing against the Danish Embassy here killed six people.

Two security officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to media, said Friday at least three men were arrested and were being questioned by civil and military authorities in Rawalpindi.

World

Egypt uncovers 'missing' pyramid

AP

A worker is seen inside the well-known Saqqara Serapium, a tunnel of underground tombs, discovered by French archeologist August Mariette in 1850, that has been closed to the public for repairs for the last ten years at Saqqara, south of Cairo, Egypt Thursday, June 5, 2008.

SAQQARA, Egypt (AP)—Egyptian archaeologists unveiled on Thursday a 4,000-year-old "missing pyramid" that is believed to have been discovered by an archaeologist almost 200 years ago and never seen again.

Zahi Hawass, Egypt's antiquities chief, said the pyramid appears to have been built by King Menkauhor, an obscure pharaoh who ruled for only eight years.

In 1842, German archaeologist Karl Richard Lepsius mentioned it among his finds at Saqqara, referring to it as number 29 and calling it the "Headless Pyramid" because only its base remains. But the desert sands covered the discovery, and no archaeologist since has been able to find Menkauhor's resting place.

"We have filled the gap of the missing pyramid," Hawass told reporters on a tour of the discoveries at Saqqara, the necropolis and burial site of the rulers of ancient Memphis, the capital of Egypt's Old Kingdom, about 12 miles south of Cairo.

The team also announced the discovery of part of a ceremonial procession road where high priests, their faces obscured by masks, once carried mummified sacred bulls worshipped in the ancient Egyptian capital of Memphis.

The pyramid's base—or the superstructure as archeologists call it—was found after a 25-foot-high mound of sand was removed over the past year and a half by Hawass' team.

Hawass said the style of the pyramid indicates it was from the Fifth Dynasty, a period that began in 2,465 B.C. and ended in 2,325 B.C. That would put it about two centuries after the completion of the Great Pyramid of Giza, believed to have been finished in 2,500 B.C.

Another proof of its date, Hawass says, was the discovery inside the pyramid of a gray granite lid of a sarcophagus, of the type used at that time.

The rectangular base, at the bottom of a 15 foot-deep pit dug out by workers, gives little indication of how imposing the pyramid might have once been. Heaps of huge rocks, many still partially covered in sand and dust, mark the pyramid's walls and entrance, and a burial chamber was discovered inside.

Archaeologists have not found a cartouche - a pharaoh's name in hieroglyphs - of the pyramid's owner. But Hawass said that based on the estimated date of the pyramid he was convinced it belonged to Menkauhor.

Work continues at the site, where Hawass said he expected to unearth "subsidiary" pyramids around Menkauhor's main one, and hoped to find inscriptions there to back up his claim.

WORLD BRIEFS

Accused 9/11 mastermind asks judge to be executed

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)—Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the reputed mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, told a military judge at his arraignment Thursday that he welcomes the death penalty as a way to martyrdom and ridiculed the proceedings as an "inquisition." In his first public appearance since his capture five years ago, Mohammed wore dark-framed prison-issue glasses, a turban and a bushy, gray beard, and was noticeably thinner. He and four other detainees accused of plotting al-Qaida's 2001 attack were at turns cordial and defiant at their arraignment, the first U.S. attempt to try in court those believed to be directly responsible for killing 2,973 people in the bloodiest terrorist attack ever on U.S. soil. All five said they did not want attorneys and would represent themselves.

World court prosecutor says Darfur a 'crime scene'

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Sudan's actions in Darfur have helped turn the region into "a crime scene," the chief U.N. prosecutor charged Thursday, expanding on a scathing report this week that directly linked the government to a feared militia blamed for much of the killing. "Despite promises and denials, over the last five years, millions of civilians have been targeted by officials who vowed to protect them. Impunity reigns," International Criminal Court chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo told a rapt Security Council. In the report obtained earlier this week by The Associated Press, Moreno-Ocampo alleged that Sudan's "whole state apparatus" is implicated in crimes against humanity in the country's western Darfur region.

Britain seeks to curb knife crime after slayings

LONDON (AP)—Arsema Dawit is the latest name on a somber list. The 15-year-old schoolgirl was found dead in an elevator at a south London apartment building this week, the 16th teenager slain in Britain's capital this year. Most, like Dawit, were stabbed to death - and most of their killers were other young people. The deaths have sparked fears of a knife crime "epidemic" among Britain's young, and spurred the government to announce tougher penalties for teens caught carrying a blade. Until now, warnings were given to most of those under the age of 18 found with knives.

Maharlika – PinoyNews

Peso further weakens to 44.07:$1

By DORIS DUMLAO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The peso Thursday weakened past the 44-per-dollar mark for the first time in eight months, on reports that consumer prices had risen at their fastest pace in nine years.

The peso reached an intra-day trading low of 44.10 to the dollar before closing at 44.07.

At its closing rate, the peso was down 0.125 from Thursday's finish of 43.945 to the greenback.

It is now at its lowest level since touching 44.18 to the dollar on Oct. 25.

The peso's drop was aggravated by data showing inflation had reached 9.6 percent year-on-year in May.

"It highlights market's fear over rising inflation," Banco de Oro Unibank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas said.

Ravelas projected the trading range this Friday at 43.90-44.50 to the dollar.

Last year, the peso became Asia's best-performing currency when it gained by nearly 19 percent against the dollar. Amid inflation-related jitters, it has since dropped 6.2 percent so far, making it the third-weakest currency in the region after to the Korean won and the Indian rupee.

Currency traders said the peso would have slipped further Thursday if not for dollar selling by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (central bank).

The foreign exchange market was also jittery ahead of the BSP's monetary board meeting Thursday. The market had factored in a quarter-percentage point rate increase, said Ravelas.

"If I were BSP, if I want to curtail (the peso depreciation), I'd raise the interest rate by 50 basis points. If they raise by only 25 basis points, the peso would still depreciate. But if they (BSP) don't raise at all, it (the peso) would hit 44.50 immediately," Ravelas said.

"The market's behavior today already factored in the high inflation rate and a 25-basis point adjustment," he said.

For the government's budgeting purposes, the central bank and other agencies on the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee have assumed that the peso-dollar exchange rate would range from 42 to 45 per dollar this year and the next.

WORLD-CLASS ADVENTURER AP

Erik Weihenmayer, the first blind man to reach the 29,035-foot (8,850-meter) summit of Mount Everest and climb the seven summits of the world, poses with blind children during his interaction Wednesday June 4, 2008 in Manila, Philippines. Weihenmayer, a world-class adventurer who completed his seven-year quest to climb the "Seven Summits," the highest mountains on each of the seven continents, is in the country to inspire visually-impaired and handicapped Filipinos, as well as "encourage innovative thinking and creativity" for employees of a multi-national firm P&G.

RP firms losing software developers to Singapore

By ERWIN OLIVA
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA—A local executive of a systems integration and development company and the head of a local industry organization have acknowledged that professional poaching remains a nagging problem in the country.

Poaching of Filipino software engineers and developers has affected the growth and the businesses of local software companies struggling to keep their people from leaving for better opportunities abroad, said Emmanuel Caintic, chief executive officer of Philippine-based Incuventure Partners Corp. (IPC), in an interview.

Engaged in developing systems for government and private clients, IPC is now focusing on efforts to address the turnover of its people to foreign software companies, while they also find ways to bring more incentives to their employees.

"People are our assets. We're suffering from turnovers," said Caintic who has been running the company since 2001. IPC currently employs about 70 people and expects to hire more as they're expecting to get more projects this year.

IPC's clients include the Department of Budget and Management, the Bureau of Treasury through the Philippine Dealing Exchange, and the St. Luke's Medical Center.

The company is now hoping to be a leading service oriented architecture service company in the country, providing the building blocks that would allow companies to effectively address business pains using technology.

Having worked with companies like Sun Microsystems and Oracle, IPC is now pouring money into developing a framework that would require fewer people to maintain it given the problems of turnover, said Terence Gamboa, chief technology officer of IPC.

In a separate interview, Philippine Software Industry Association Inc. president Beng Coronel acknowledged the problem of poaching in the country.

"While we abhor the poaching of people, we're also trying to encourage compliance to the mandatory 30-day notice. This should be followed. Losing people is bad enough, but losing accounts and projects is worse," she said.

A study done in 2006 by PSIA showed that the current average attrition rate in local software companies was about 12.5 percent.

"This is the rate of people we're losing to another country or another local company," she added.

Over the years, she believes that the attrition rate in local companies has remained the same. What changed were the countries recruiting local software engineers, Coronel said.

Migrant Workers' Day MESSAGE

In the observance of Migrant Workers' Day, we in the Department of Labor and Employment once again doff our hats and laud the courage, perseverance, and patriotism of our millions of overseas Filipino workers in many parts of the globe.

Since the start of the 20th Century–which was the acknowledged start of our productive overseas migration when the first Filipino pineapple workers went to Hawaii–our OFWs have already been contributing heavily to the nation's financial stability and economic growth. In 2007, with OFW global remittances reaching US$14.449 billion, the Philippine economy got a big lift through foreign exchange reserves. These remittances also brought immeasurable comfort to their families whose well-being remains the absolute motivation for working away from home.

As a small gesture from a grateful nation, we vow to continue to protect and safeguard the interest and welfare of our OFWs and their families.

Nararapat lang nating bigyang pugay at pasalamatan and lahat n gating kababayang nagtratrabaho sa ibayong dagat na walang sawang tumutulong at nakikiisa sa ating mithiin na makamit ang pambansang kaunlaran at katatagan n gating ekonomiya.

Mabuhay ang mga Manggagawang Pilipino sa lahat ng sulok ng mundo!

MARIANITO D. ROQUE
Secretary

Muslim rebels warn truce may collapse if…

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim rebels warned Friday that their five-year-old truce with the Philippine government may collapse unless the two sides resume stalled peace talks.

The talks broke off last year after the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which has been fighting for self-rule for minority Muslims for decades, protested the government's insistence that any proposal granting the rebels autonomy must adhere to Philippine laws and go before voters as a referendum.

The peace process hit another snag in May, when neighboring Malaysia grew impatient with the stalled talks and began pulling its more than 40 peacekeepers from the region. The peacekeepers have been credited with safeguarding the 2003 truce.

Rebel negotiator Mohagher Iqbal said in a statement Friday that the cease-fire may collapse on Aug. 31 unless the government and the MILF negotiate an extension of the monitors' mandate.

The mandate is renegotiated every August.

But Iqbal warned that the rebels will not agree to meet with their government counterparts if it is only to extend the monitors' mandate. He said any new talks must first tackle the contentious issue of territory, governance, control of natural resources and other points relating to a future Muslim homeland.

The rebels said earlier that the two sides had already covered most of the issues when the government announced it was re-examining its position, which Manila says must not violate the Philippine Constitution.

Iqbal has repeatedly warned it would be difficult to prevent occasional conflicts without the foreign peacekeepers.

The Philippine government did not comment immediately, but has repeatedly allayed fears of a return to war. National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzalez said Tuesday the government has appealed for more peacekeepers from Muslim countries to help fill the vacuum after the Malaysians complete their withdrawal.

Libya and Brunei together have about 20 monitors left behind, and Japan has one civilian representative.

? LABOR FRONT

Frivolous Labor complaint

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: When can a Labor complaint be deemed frivolous?

A: Labor administrative hearing officers may find a complaint to be frivolous if it is unfounded in fact or law or initiated primarily to obtain an undue pecuniary benefit or for distraction or delay.

According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, the filing of a complaint which is determined by a preponderance of evidence to be frivolous shall be grounds for permanently disqualifying the foreign national worker who filed the action from employment in the CNMI or permanently barring an employer who filed the action from further employment of foreign national workers.

■■■

Q: What is the whistleblower relief?

A: In order to promote the public interest in securing compliance with Commonwealth law, the regulations state that an alien worker who provides Labor with information on the basis of which a compliance agency case is concluded successfully may be granted a transfer by a hearing officer even if not qualified under the provision pertaining to transfers.

■■■

Q: If a worker does not prevail in his or her Labor complaint, can he or she still appeal before the Labor hearing officer?

A: Yes. The regulations state that a party may file a motion for reconsideration within 15 days after getting the administrative order. The worker's motion shall state concisely the matters of controlling decisions that a party believes the hearing officer overlooked or misapprehended.

No affidavits shall be filed for additional evidence offered. No oral argument shall be heard unless the hearing officer directs to the contrary.

After a decision on a motion for reconsideration is signed, the regulations state, "no further motions or filings may be made with the administrative hearing office other than a notice of appeal."

Disclaimer: Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice. Saipan Tribune *will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to Saipan Tribune via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the Saipan Tribune's office on the second floor of the CIC Centre on Beach Road, Garapan.*

Napocor files for power rate reduction

By ABIGAIL L. HO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—State-run National Power Corp. (Napocor) has filed with the Energy Regulatory Commission applications for its revised basic generation rates, as well as fuel cost and foreign exchange-related recoveries—a move that will bring down power rates in the next few months.

Napocor supplies about 40 percent of the power that Manila Electric Co. distributes in its franchise area that covers Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

The impact of Napocor's expected rate reduction will not be felt until the ERC approves the applications.

The level of the reduction will also depend on the rates the ERC will approve and how much power Meralco will purchase from the state firm.

The state firm's applications came in the wake of the failure of Winston Garcia, president of the Government Service Insurance System, to wrest management control of Meralco from the Lopezes to lower its rates, the highest in the country.

To help ease the burden of high power rates, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo launched on Tuesday a P2-billion power subsidy program that will give a one-time subsidy of P500 to households using less than 100 kilowatt-hours a month.

Revisions in Napocor's basic generation rates for the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao grids were filed on Tuesday to take into account the shrinking of Napocor's power generation base as a result of the privatization of 42.7 percent of its capacity in Luzon and the Visayas.

This application, combined with those for the state firm's ninth generation rate adjustment mechanism (GRAM) and eighth incremental currency exchange rate adjustment (ICERA) petition, would cut Napocor's rates by 3.62 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh) in Luzon and by 0.39 centavos per kWh in Mindanao.

The rate for the Visayas, however, would increase by 15.91 centavos per kWh.

Nationwide, Napocor's effective rate would go down by 0.06 centavos per kWh.

The GRAM is a quarterly adjustment mechanism that allows utilities such as Napocor to recover costs associated with fuel and purchased power.

The ICERA is a quarterly adjustment mechanism that allows utilities to recover foreign exchange-related costs. A stronger peso usually means a reduction in rates.

The state firm's effective rate in Luzon is currently pegged at P3.8896 per kWh in Luzon, P2.8043 per kWh in the Visayas and P2.5523 per kWh in Mindanao.

Flexible rates

Napocor also offers time-of-use (TOU) rates, or flexible hourly rates that are lowest during off-peak hours, or between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., and highest during peak hours, or from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays and holidays are also considered off-peak times.

Rates are also lower during the wet season, or from July to December, as electricity demand usually falls during this time due to the colder weather.

Consistent with ERC order

The filing for the revised basic generation rates is consistent with an ERC order for Napocor to apply periodically for rate adjustments, factoring in the sale of its assets, change in load profile and plant stacking.

Napocor said this particular application with the ERC only reflected the impact of the privatization of the 112-megawatt (MW) Pantabangan-Masiway hydropower plant in Nueva Ecija, 360-MW Magat hydropower facility in Isabela and 600-MW Masinloc coal-fired power plant on the company's operations.

"As contained in the ERC order, adjustments in the basic rate are proposed to be reflected in Napocor's rate in the quarter following the closing date of a power generation plant's sale," a Napocor statement said.

Considering that Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. had already sold 42.7 percent of Napocor's Luzon and Visayas generating capacity to private investors, the state-run power firm "found the need to file this application to reflect the true cost of electricity."

Sale of power plants

"As written in the application filed at the ERC, Napocor concluded that the privatization of the Pantabangan-Masiway, Magat and Masinloc (plants) would require an immediate adjustment in the existing Luzon grid average generation rate in order to reasonably recover the operating expenses of the remaining power plants under its control, as well as attain a reasonable return on rate base as authorized by the ERC," Napocor said.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY AP PHOTO/BULLIT MARQUEZ

Government workers collect plastics and other dirt in a continuing clean up of Manila Bay as the Philippines mark Thursday June 5, 2008 as World Environment Day in Manila, Philippines. This year's focus is on initiatives promoting low-carbon economies such as forest conservation, water preservation and alternative sources of energy.

Dutch court allows Joma's murder probe to continue

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—A Dutch court ruled Thursday against halting an investigation into the Philippines' exiled former communist leader Jose Maria Sison in connection with two murders in his Southeast Asian nation.

Sison was arrested in August but ordered released in September, when judges said there was "no serious evidence" against him and that the case may have been politically motivated. He then petitioned to have the investigation dismissed altogether.

But The Hague District Court said Thursday that prosecutors "deserve to be given the time to continue their preliminary investigation, and complete it, so that a well-considered decision can be made as to whether he should face criminal charges."

Prosecutors say they are reviewing data seized from Sison's computer in August and plan to interview more witnesses.

Sison, 69, was arrested on suspicion of ordering the murder of Romulo Kintanar in 2003 and Arturo Tabara in 2004.

The Communist Party of the Philippines, a rebel group which the European Union designated as terrorist in 2002, has claimed responsibility for both slayings.

Sison helped found the party in 1968, but spent 10 years in prison under the regime of Ferdinand Marcos and has been in the Netherlands for 20 more. He denies involvement in the killings, saying he has been gone too long to have such influence in the party.

He describes himself as chief political consultant to the National Democratic Front, an umbrella group of leftist organizations that includes the outlawed communists.

Talks between the Philippines' government and the National Democratic Front have been frozen since mid-2004. Last year, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's government both issued an amnesty proposal to rebels and vowed to stomp them out before her term in office expires in 2010.

Arroyo signs cheaper medicines law

By LIRA DALANGIN-FERNANDEZ
INQUIRER.NET

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed here on Friday a new law that aims to bring down the price of medicines by encouraging more competition in the local market through parallel importation of cheaper but quality drugs.

Republic Act 9502, or the "Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act of 2008," also seeks to help the local generics industry by amending the Intellectual Property Code and strengthening the regulatory powers of the Bureau of Food and Drugs against substandard medicine.

"We all know about the importance of the Generics Law before but it was incomplete, and now with the cheaper medicines and quality bill we have completed, I believe, our legislative reforms in bringing affordable medicines to the people," Arroyo said in a brief message after signing the new law

She directed the Department of Health (DoH) to come up with the implementing rules and regulations within 120 days.

The agency, for its part, said the new law would allow it to expand a program to deliver cheap medicines to the grassroots.

"With the signing of this Act, the DoH is put into high gear to further accelerate efforts to expand Botika ng Barangay [Drugstore of the Villages] outlets with the goal of 15,000 outlets nationwide by 2010," Health Secretary Francisco Duque said in a statement.

Although listed as a priority measure by the Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC), the cheaper medicines bill was bypassed by the 13th Congress due to lack of time and quorum.

Congress finally ratified it in April this year.

Media watchdog condemns libel verdict

By OLIVER TEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An international media watchdog slammed the prison sentence of a Philippine newspaper editor found guilty of libeling the president's former lawyer, saying Friday that the case against her was undemocratic.

The Makati Regional Trial court on Thursday sentenced Ninez Cacho Olivarez, editor and publisher of The Daily Tribune, to two years in prison and ordered her to pay damages to Arthur Villaraza and his law firm for an article alleging he tried to extort money from a building company.

The June 2003 article written by Olivarez was based on a purported recording of Villaraza—formerly President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's lawyer—and a German company that won a bid for a new airport terminal.

The law firm argued that the story was baseless and maligned its reputation. Judge Winlove Dumayas found the article "defamatory" and "attended with malice."

Olivarez called the ruling "an injustice." Her lawyer, Alexis Mina, said they would appeal, and the court allowed Olivarez to post bail.

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists condemned Olivarez' conviction and expressed hope it would be overturned.

Bob Dietz, Asia coordinator for the group, said in a statement that "it is high time for a democratic country like the Philippines to remove the threat of imprisonment for journalists by decriminalizing libel."

He noted that Olivarez is a well-known critic of Arroyo's administration, which has also filed sedition charges against her and two columnists that are still pending.

The Tribune has frequently reported on alleged government corruption. In February 2006, police raided the newspaper's offices when Arroyo declared a state of emergency to quell a coup plot.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines said earlier that the ruling highlighted "the urgency of decriminalizing and improving our antiquated libel law."

Media groups say politicians in the Philippines often abuse the 106-year-old libel law to silence critics. Under the law, violators can be fined or sentenced to up to six years in prison.

ON THE NET

Committee to Protect Journalists: http://www.cpj.org

RP flash flood kills 2, displaces 1,000

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Flash floods whipped by strong winds and sudden heavy rain killed two men and sent 1,000 residents fleeing their southern Philippine riverside village, an official said Friday.

About 15 stranded residents were rescued from a tiny river islet in Davao del Sur's Bansalan township Thursday, when the water suddenly rose several feet (meters), Bansalan Mayor Edwin Reyes said.

Reyes said two men drowned in the flood.

He said the floods were triggered by a squall followed by a heavy downpour that destroyed at least 50 houses in the village of Poblacion Dos, on the foothills of Mt. Apo, the Philippines' tallest mountain.

About 200 families had to be evacuated to a gymnasium in the town center and five of them, including children, were slightly injured in the rush to flee, he said.

It was the third time since August last year that the town had been hit by flash floods.

Roderick Milana, head of the provincial disaster agency, said the government recently approved funding for construction of river and flood control infrastructure in the town, 600 miles (970 kilometers) southeast of Manila.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Gary V reveals regrets, highs in his 25-year career

By RUBEN V. NEPALES
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LOS ANGELES, California— "Nothing happens by accident," said Gary Valenciano as he reflected on his 25 years in show business when we interviewed him via e-mail.

As part of a year-long celebration of his silver milestone, Gary gets to be the first Filipino artist to hold a concert at the Nokia Theatre, LA's hot new venue where "American Idol" recently moved its finals, after ditching the smaller Kodak Theatre, home of the Oscars.

As befits the grand venue and occasion, it won't be business as usual for Mr. Pure Energy. Gary hinted at surprises and guest appearances by his sons, Paolo and Gabriel Valenciano, emerging performers in their own right, and Martin Nievera.

Fil-Am Allan Pineda, better known as apl.de.ap of the Grammy-winning Black Eyed Peas, and Jabbawockeez, "America's Best Dance Crew" winners which counts three Filipinos in its six-member roster, are also billed in the concert, which moves to Stockton, California on June 13 and Seattle, Washington on June 15. Allan is scheduled to perform in the LA gig only.

Excerpts from our Gary interview:

Valenciano

How excited are you to be the first Filipino artist to have a concert in the new Nokia Theatre?

The Nokia Theatre is new and has already become a desired venue for many artists like myself, who come from outside the US. To be the first Filipino artist to perform that venue is such a privilege. I take with me not just my talent but the talents of all Filipino artists. It always makes me feel proud to carry that in my heart.

You and Martin have become stronger friends over the years. What made it possible for you to evolve from rivals — who are friendly to each other — to close friends?

Our rivalry was never something we created but rather something created by others—fans and the media. I'd like to say there were many moments that brought not just us, but our families, closer. He knows about my faith in Christ and I am thankful that he chooses to share his life with me while being attentive to what I have to say in return. He was present when Angeli gave birth to our firstborn, Juan Paolo. That's why Paolo was named Juan Paolo Martin. I am Edgardo Jose Martin.

Martin appeared about the same time you were also entering the scene. Do you think this was fate or simply a coincidence? Share your memories of meeting Martin for the first time.

Nothing happens by accident... I will never forget the first time I saw Martin at St. Paul's College in Quezon City. He needed some help because his minus-one material couldn't be played in the system the school had. He had to borrow some of my materials on cassette tape. But his biggest problem was that he didn't know the lyrics of the song he was about to do. So I came up with the idea that I would shout the lyrics from backstage, through the curtains...That was the first time we actually carried on a conversation and since then, we've had a real good friendship. The song was "You," which was originally sung by Basil Valdez.

You've enjoyed many defining moments in your 25 year-career. But we'd like you to choose and share what is the single defining moment in your career that you consider the most important.

When Paolo was born. Prior to that, I made a decision not to deny the pregnancy of Angeli. It was a very controversial decision and to this day, I've never regretted it. "Alive," my first concert at the Araneta Coliseum, happened three weeks after my announcement about Angeli's pregnancy and it was sold out...

And what were the career opportunities that got away?

I was asked several times to switch from (endorsing) Coke to Pepsi and one of the greatest opportunities was to sing with Tina Turner in the commercial which Gino Padilla ended up doing. I couldn't turn my back on Coca-Cola just because of the opportunity to sing with a global superstar...

What are your regrets?

I always feel that I should have spent more time with God to hear more from Him and so I could maximize the gifts He has given me. I regret that I did miss out on some real good opportunities like when I recorded in the USA with Danny Bates and George Duke. I allowed them to dictate what they wanted me to do. I should have fought for what I felt was more suited to my style. Also, when I had many opportunities in Japan, I allowed people to tell me what to record.

What was the toughest moment for you, especially in regard to having diabetes and performing?

In 2005, when I just performed for the ASAP concert at the Rose Bowl Stadium in Pasadena, California, I nearly died the day after, due to fatigue and jet lag. I had an insulin overdose and while I was asleep, Angeli suddenly woke up at three o'clock in the morning. I was having a seizure...I nearly went into a coma and died. Angeli revived me and called 911 and the paramedics helped me recover.

Best birthday gift

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sam Milby turned another year cuter last May 23.

Most important lesson he has learned? "I'm not getting any younger," he muses. "I must take advantage of what I have now 'cause it won't last forever."

Best birthday gift he has received? "An Xbox 360 from Anne (Curtis)," he says flashing his smile that has launched a thousand products. "Earlier this year, she gave me a scrapbook of our pics and mementos. I could tell that she put a lot of time into it. That was so sweet of her."

Anne's sweetness is his strongest weakness!

Daboy update

Direk Boots Plata sent me this text message last Sunday: "Nakauwi na si Rudy F. Pero ayaw muna ni Lorna T. tumanggap ng bisita kasi napagod si Daboy sa dami ng bisita sa ospital. Pero masaya siya. Today is their 25th civil wedding anniversary."

Speaking of Daboy, it was Direk Deo J. Fajardo who discovered him. "Nu'ng ginawa niya ang 'Baby Ama,' 'di ko sinabi sa kanya na kakalbuhin siya," Direk recalls. "Na-shock si Daboy. But that movie made him."

Next big thing?

Deo's next protégé was Robin Padilla. Now he's at it again. He's grooming 20-year-old Fil-Am stunner William Redmond in his digital movie "Students' Project." William's one of the busiest actors in indie films. He also directs, edits and writes. With Deo's Midas touch, could William be the next big thing?

'Pinoy Idol' hopefuls

Excitement builds up as 16 hopefuls (as of press time) remain in the quest for "Pinoy Idol." They are Penelope, Meryl David, Jayann Bautista, Carol Leus, Gretchen Espina, Jenri Rawolle, Mar Flores, Sue Ellen, Walton Zerrudo, Ram Chaves, Kid Camaya, Daryl Celis, JJ Jr., Warren Antig, Toffer Rei and Robby Navarro.

Watch them do their thing every Friday (after "Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita"), Saturday (after "Pinoy Records") and Sunday (after "Kap's Amazing Stories"). "I'm sad that Rye Estrada had to go," contest judge Ogie Alcasid says. "I like Robby's voice and style but I want the rest to step up with their performances." Up, up they go on their way to stardom!

PERSONAL FINANCE

Living within your means

Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money , a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: We're a family of four—my husband and I plus our two children who are both in preschool. Every month, it is a challenge to keep to our budget since prices of everything has gone up. We've tried tightening our belts by carpooling and lessening our dining out. How else can we cut down on our expenses? — Abby C.

Answer: Times are really hard these days. With the price of oil having broken the $100 per barrel marker, most consumer goods increased in prices too.

Sad to say, salaries have not gone up as fast, leaving many families scratching their heads, figuring out how else to make ends meet.

We commend you for adopting ways to save on costs. Carpooling and dining out less frequently will help free up more pesos in your budget.

Before we give you more tips on how to make your money last, there's one valuable advice we'd like to share: Live within your means. That means living a lifestyle that can be supported with the purchasing power of your money right now. That money power may have been affected now by inflation.

Start by assessing how much money regularly comes in every month. Then record your expenses for a whole month to see where the money goes. Now comes the fun part: finding ways to live within your means successfully without leading you to a life of deprivation. Here are some of them.

At home

1. Celebrate birthdays at home. Even if you'll order food from outside, you will still save if you will celebrate birthdays at home. Buy drinks at the supermarket, cook a feast, and bake your own cake. What matters most is spending birthdays with the people you love.

2. Check utilities. Are you paying for cable and Internet subscription plans that you hardly use? If you only watch a few channels on cable every night, see if your cable company can give you a lower-priced plan. Also, if you don't have a lot of opportunity to use your Internet broadband subscription, consider switching to prepaid dial-up connection, which you only consume when needed.

3. Prepaid or postpaid cellphone service? If you're on postpaid plan, review your past statements of account to see if you really need to be on a postpaid plan. If it is not maximized, you might be better off using prepaid service. It will even cost you less.

4. Review your insurance policy for health, auto, and home. You might be able to find lower-priced policies offered by other insurance companies. Just make sure they are established and reliable.

When shopping

1. Buy only what you need at the supermarket or grocery. It's easy to pick up non-essential items prominently displayed in supermarket aisles. But those little purchases may add up to your grocery bill.

2. Switch to lesser known brands. From tissue paper to lotion and detergent, you can find good bargains with lesser known brands. In the grocery, look for these items below eye level. You may find good quality items at lesser cost. When it comes to clothes, choose lesser known brands or locally made ones which cost less. It's not important if you are wearing brand name clothes or not; what's important is who you are.

3. Plan your trip. Instead of going to the mall every week to buy school supplies, grocery items, and gifts, plan your trip so you'll only go to the mall twice a month at most. This will help you stick to your shopping list and help you steer away from impulse purchases.

4. Identify your weakness and declare a moratorium in buying it. If your weakness is bags, for instance, commit to stop buying a new bag in the next six months. You can do it.

At the bank

1. Limit trips to the ATMs of other banks. Using other banks' ATMs rather than your own bank's ATM will cost you service fees.

2. If you have a loan from the bank, pay on time to save on penalties. And pay off all debt as soon as you can.

3. Avoid surprise charges. Some banks charge as much as P100 for every withdrawal made over the counter if you have an ATM savings or checking account. If you have a time deposit, know that if you withdraw before maturity date, you will be charged a penalty fee.

Others

1. Stop accumulating debt. If you have personal debts that have been there for quite some time, resolve to pay off everything. It will hurt at first, but financial freedom is worth it.

2. Rethink plans to make major purchases. Discuss with your husband if you have plans to buy a major appliance or a major item such as a car. Given the financial environment these days, you might want to save instead.

3. Avail of free or low cost family entertainment. Check newspapers for announcements of free concerts, plays, art shows, car shows, and the like.

There are many ways to live within your means without scrimping your lifestyle. Get your family in on it and your money will go a long way.

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Maharlika – Opinyon

Aspiration versus despair

MANILA, Philippines—I am on the last leg of a three-week visit to the United States, a trip that has affirmed in a big way the most optimistic view of Filipino-Americans, or Fil-ams, who are on the verge of going beyond nostalgia for the home land to actually building a better one. There is no doubt that divisiveness has kept Fil-Ams from enjoying the influence of a population segment with a voice that government listens to, with an identity that draws respect, and with a character that has honor. That divisiveness has managed to make utterly useless the massive numbers of Filipinos, and to deny it is simply avoiding an honest look and assessment of ourselves.

At the same time, it is utterly refreshing to discover that second- and third-generation Fil-Ams are discovering a new attraction to the home land, and just in time, it seems. The first-generation Fil-Ams are slowly fading away, and it seemed for some time that efforts to inculcate patriotism to their children did not bring the results they hoped for. I myself believed the bad news about divisiveness among Fil-Ams, but I had to discover for myself that the future is much brighter that what many had described.

Several personal encounters with second- and third-generation Fil-Ams in this trip always led to small group discussions about the situation in the motherland. Since they were born and raised in the United States, many of them have never witnessed poverty up close. And in their desire to help, many are frustrated by a local context that defies a proven development formula. Inevitably, I am asked why many initiatives for reform or for development fail although fully funded. Consistently, I always refer to the contrast between aspiration and despair.

When a human being has aspiration as his or her foundation, there is only one direction: up. When another human being is anchored on survival, there is only one purpose: to stay alive. The starting point determines the direction of life: to rise up, or just to stay alive. The first seeks to transcend, to transform the present to a higher state; the second clings to the present, which means to live, and be afraid of any other future, one that might only lead to death.

A now-famous author says we have purpose-driven lives. If purpose to him means a higher calling, then survival is not a purpose, only an instinct. Human beings who are forced to fight for survival are demeaned by evil superstructures that allow them only the struggle for survival rather than for their divine potential. Poverty, then, is the evil superstructure that denies its victims their divine birthright.

To dismantle the grip of poverty on the Filipino people means that the poor must shift from survival to aspiration. Throughout history, most nations that did went through very violent stages of exploitation and rebellion. What they had experienced internally, they brought to other countries through colonialism. All of the most developed nations today had at one time crossed their borders to expand their territories and avail themselves of the resources of the lands and peoples they conquered.

Conquerors had more options than the conquered, and again history shows that conquerors took them. Their societies evolved faster, as their understanding and ways were refined, especially their technology. Their development, though, was aided by the exploitation of peoples and resources of other lands. Expansion and governance by force marked spectacular stages of growth for the more powerful, whether in intramurals among European countries or in their colonization of the rest of the world. Africa, the Americas, Asia and Australia were invaded and exploited to drive the development of their masters.

As conquerors aspired, the conquered tried to survive. As a few raised the quality of their lives in an atmosphere of opportunity, many struggled in environments of deprivation. Later, much, much later, a global understanding was reached among the countries of the world to level the playing field—but only after centuries of colonial experience.

In particular countries, the cycle of exploitation and deprivation has been played out in local settings, of natives doing the same to fellow natives. The lessons of colonial rule were learned—that the powerful can exploit the weak and develop much faster, using the labor and resources of the weak. Corruption was institutionalized, first by colonialism, then from the example of colonialism. Independence from colonial rule did not immediately translate to the emergence of egalitarian societies; on the contrary, the cycle of exploitation and revolution was extended by the locals, themselves.

Each people that went through the last 500 years as a conquered race tried to play catch-up once they found freedom. Some succeeded faster than others. Others deteriorated even more with local conquerors turning out more brutal than their former foreign masters. Indeed, the temptation to exploit is a powerful one, the opportunity to grow at the expense of others a human pattern too strong to simply transcend, and the vision of equality, liberty and fraternity too refined a dream for many to grasp quickly and pursue.

It is too late for historical victims to undo their past. While many try to hold on to memories no matter how painful, the challenge to the present is simply to learn and then aspire. For those that have gone ahead by exploiting others, the next centuries can bring their moment of atonement, their opportunity to extend proportionate generosity. Indeed, many now do so. Global philanthropy was born from societies who once exploited the most.

Exploitation will always have many expressions. It does not disappear just because colonial times are gone. The ever-changing laws of nations try to curb new expressions of exploitation. The quest for higher societal ethics remains a challenge for all but especially for the most developed. And among the most developed, the United States and the millions of Fil-Ams who reside there will play a major role in the evolution of democracy in the Philippines

Fil-Ams have become quite sensitive to the ugly faces of poverty and corruption because these cause shame. At the same time, these faces can be transformed if Filipinos are truly determined to build new patterns of solidarity, integrity and diligence. Fil-Ams, especially, are motivated to show that Filipinos need not extend their historical shame. Solidarity for common causes is such a powerful way to begin exorcising a conditioned mindset. I believe that the moment is here, the space is here, but the ultimate battlefield is in the home land. Let us all promise to met there and win the war.

Letter to the Editor

Hospitable even to terrorists

Editor's Note: The following was originally published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer *on June 6, 2008.*

I agree with Manuel Almario: We are underlings in our own country. (Philippine Daily Inquirer, May 17, 2008) But he never mentioned anything about what we Filipinos can do to change the situation. I worked for quite some time with our Bureau of Immigration. I have seen how stupid it is for our country to continue having an agency like this.

Everything is for sale. Remember the terrorist whose capture is worth millions of dollars to the United States, but who was escorted to the airport, using a Philippine passport, for P40 million? Nothing happened to the case.

Our country is the training ground of international terrorists, the safest haven of wanted foreign nationals, the best place to manufacture "shabu" (methamphetamine hydrochloride), etc. Muhammad Atta, one of those who piloted the planes in the 9/11 bombing, was here a month before it happened. Most wanted foreign nationals are here enjoying their happy "vacation."

Everything is for sale at our international airports. If you are an Indian national, and you want to be a "5/6" [usury] guy, the price of a visa at the airport is P250,000.

So, Mr. Almario, we are lucky to have those businessmen in our skyscraper offices. Most of them have no working visa, they don't pay taxes to the Bureau of Internal Revenue, and they are peace-loving people. We are lucky we have the likes of them. We are the Philippines, you know, and we are very hospitable.

Lilia Sarmiento Maliksi
via email

GLIMPSES

By JOSE MA. MONTELIBANO
INQUIRER.net

Responses may be sent to jlmglimpses@gmail.com.

Two lost presidencies

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo makes her "working visit" to the United States for a last summit with President George W. Bush in the twilight years of their presidencies. Both are exiting—Bush in six months and President Arroyo in less than two years. In this last summit, both have nothing left to do other than gaze at their navels to contemplate the ruins of their failed presidencies.

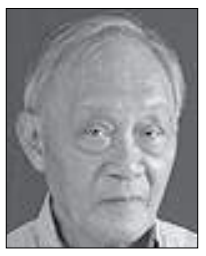
Outgoing Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye billed the visit as though it were loaded with a full agenda of bilateral issues for long-term Philippine-US relations, of two presidents setting a new direction for this relationship. Bunye announced that the President was expected to exchange views with Bush "on a broad range of issues, including food security, protection of the environment, the Philippine defense reform program, counterterrorism, nonproliferation, ASEAN's community building, human rights, Burma and global trade."

In fact, President Bush and Ms Arroyo have been reduced to funeral caretakers performing an autopsy of the past, the legacies of their lost presidencies. No matter how overloaded their agenda is, whatever they agree on the summit will come to naught. And agreements would have no binding effect on the next American and Filipino administrations. The summit will be a morbid exercise over funeral arrangements. There will be many wrecks of foreign policy initiatives to remind them of the doomed joint enterprises stemming from their collapsed "coalition of the willing" in Bush's war on Iraq. They are lame ducks with waning power to influence events, and yet President Arroyo is portrayed by palace apologists as in charge and in control of her crisis-plagued administration.

In their twilight years, the Bush and Arroyo administrations face many things in common. Both are now in the pits of low popularity and public approval ratings. The US economy is battered by the subprime financial crisis that has plunged it into a recession with economic effects worldwide, including on the Philippine economy. The Bush administration's unpopularity stems mainly from the costs of the war on Iraq (both in terms of the economy and the United States' international diplomatic isolation). It has difficulty extricating itself from the fallout of the war and disengaging US troops from Iraq, in view of rising deaths of US servicemen. The US economic slowdown is taking place as the Philippine economic growth has lost momentum. The Philippine central bank has forecast a 6.0-6.7 percent growth in 2008, below the government's target of 6.3-7.0 percent, after the gross domestic product recorded its fastest growth in 31 years at 7.3 percent in 2007.

The Arroyo administration has banked on this spectacular performance of the economy to buttress its fragile legitimacy, with a claim of competence in economy management. International economists expect the effects of the global recession triggered by the US subprime financial crunch to drag Philippine economic growth down. The Philippine economic slowdown has eroded the legitimacy of the Arroyo government more deeply, and has robbed the regime of one of the few accomplishments it can claim for her presidency.

ANALYSIS



By AMANDO DORONILA
Philippine Daily Inquirer

The summit takes place as both the Arroyo and Bush administrations are undergoing scrutiny from scholars and historians for the legacies they are leaving. As the United States approaches the November presidential election, a number of scholarly studies have appeared, most of them depicting the Bush administration as one the worst presidencies in US history.

Bush has received a blast from former presidential spokesman Scott McClellan. In his memoirs, McClellan wrote that during the "political propaganda campaign to sell the war to the American people, Bush tried to make the WMD [weapons of mass destruction] and the Iraq terrorism connection appear just a little more certain, a little less questionable than they were."

McClellan said Bush was "insulated from the reality from the events on the ground and consequently began falling into the trap of believing his own spin." He ticked off a long list of Bush's weaknesses: someone with a penchant for self-deception, if it "suits his needs at the moment." He said: "the Bush administration lacked real accountability in large part because Bush himself did not embrace openness of government in the sunshine."

The Arroyo Washington visit is a futile search of legitimacy, anchored on the belief that the summit is a foreign policy initiative that would gain legitimacy for her government engulfed by corruption scandals and human rights issues that have attracted wide criticism from Western liberal democracies. Bush cannot help her in her quest. There is nothing she can bring home to Manila in the form of concessions from Washington, which Bush can commit. Their most fruitful initiative, their alliance in the Iraq war in the "coalition of the willing," has collapsed in the wake of the withdrawal of the Philippine non-combat, peacekeeping contingent following the abduction of Filipino contract workers in Iraq.

The foreign policy card cannot reinforce the remaining options left in the hands of the President to legitimize her stay in power. She is now playing the economic populist card. In this strategy of last resort, the President has pandered to the gallery by posturing as the patron of benefits of relief to the public suffering from, for example, high electricity rates and from inflation of prices of rise and from rice shortages. In this quest to escape responsibility for these shortfalls, she has found convenient scapegoats. She has redirected public wrath to them. She will come home not only empty-handed but tarred by Bush's legacy.

Samu't Sari

BARTENDERS COMPETITION

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

2008 Taste of the Marianas Bartenders Cocktail Competition novice category's only female contestant Rojinia Banacia of Hyatt Regency Saipan shows off her talent during the event held last Saturday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

2008 Taste of the Marianas Bartenders Cocktail Competition Battle of the Champions winner Jaymar Torres with his wife Claire.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Marianas Bartenders Association president Lito Espino with event host PTI's Brad Ruszala.

Above, 2008 Taste of the Marianas Bartenders Cocktail Competition novice category champion Monico Usi with family and friends.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

MHS GRADUATION

Right, Marianas High School faculty members gather for a photo during the class of 2008 graduation ceremony Saturday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Sunshine of Trends Beauty Parlor in San Jose poses with his co-staff and customers during his birthday last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CULTURAL DAY

Above center, members of the Filipino community parade with their traditional attire during the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School's Cultural & Health Festival Saturday at the school ground in San Roque.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Above, Filipino community members grace the fashion show in traditional Filipino attire during the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School's Cultural & Health Festival Saturday at the school ground in San Roque.

CNMI-RP FRIENDSHIP WEEK

Left, officers and members of the United Filipino Organization gather for a photo after Gov. Benigno Fitial signs the proclamation declaring the week of June 8-14, 2008 as Northern Mariana Islands-Philippines Friendship Week at the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill Monday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Bottom left, United Filipino Organization's Nel Matanguihan reads the proclamation declaring the week of June 8-14, 2008 as Northern Mariana Islands-Philippines Friendship Week.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Youngstyle

Obama will face Mccain on presidential ballot

By MICHAEL D. SHEAR
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WASHINGTON–The process of electing the next president of the United States reached a critical point this week: The Democrats and the Republicans, the two major political parties, each have a candidate who party leaders believe will win in November.

On the Democratic side, Illinois Senator Barack Obama edged New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton for their party's presidential nomination, climaxing a five-month primary contest that ended Tuesday in Montana and South Dakota. Although the two states split—Montana's voters went for Obama, South Dakota's for Clinton—Obama secured enough delegate votes to wrap up the nomination and become the first African-American to lead a major-party presidential ticket. Obama will be nominated officially in August at the Democratic National Convention in Colorado.

AP
Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., is welcomed to a rally at Nissan Pavilion, Thursday, June 5, 2008 in Bristow, Va.

A week later, Republicans will meet in Minnesota and nominate Arizona Senator John McCain as their standard-bearer. McCain locked up his party's nomination several weeks ago.

McCain and Obama are friends, but you might not be able to tell that when they're on the campaign trail. Both will be campaigning hard and spending a lot of money to win in November.

What Will Happen Now?

During the summer, McCain and Obama will travel the country, giving speeches about why each thinks he would make the best president. They will concentrate on states where neither man has a clear advantage and thus are up for grabs on Election Day.

Between now and the national conventions, Obama and McCain will each choose a vice presidential running mate. It's an important job, in part because the vice president takes over if something happens to the president.

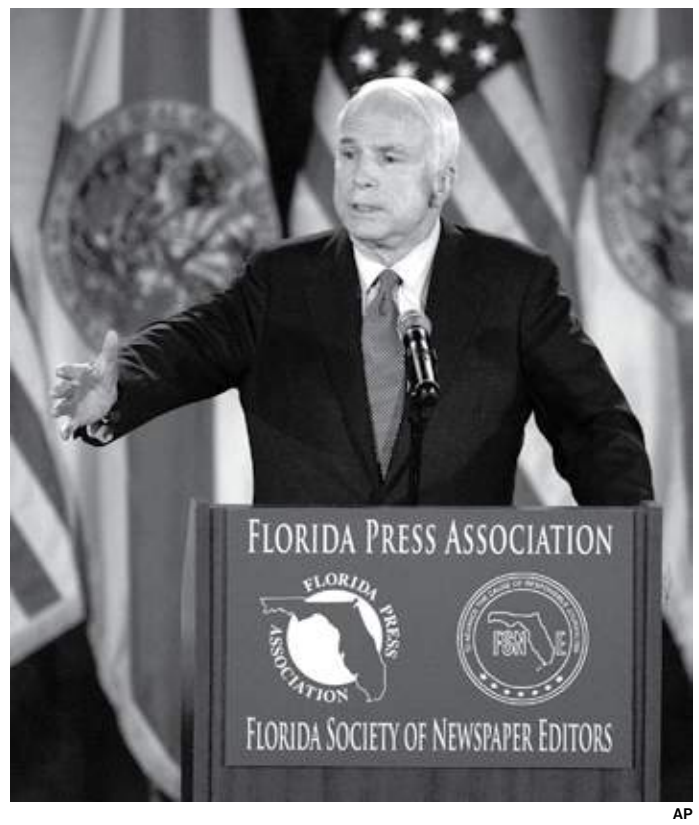
At the end of August, Democratic leaders will gather in Denver for their convention, a big meeting during which they will officially nominate Obama and his choice for vice president. There will be lots of confetti, balloons and speeches about how Democrats are the best.

A few days later, the Republicans will meet in Minneapolis-St. Paul to nominate McCain and his running mate. That convention, too, will have plenty of balloons, confetti and speeches saying that Republicans are the best.

After Labor Day, the Final Push

After the political conventions, McCain, Obama, their running mates and some minor-party candidates will travel a lot, seeking support from voters.

As the two major candidates, McCain and Obama probably will debate on national television, answering questions from reporters or each other. Then, on Nov. 4, voters will decide who will succeed George W. Bush on Jan. 20 as the 44th president of the United States.



AP
Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain R-Ariz. speaks at the Florida Society of Newspaper Editors & Florida Press Association convention in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Thursday, June 5, 2008.

POLITICAL PAGES

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Want to know more about the voting process and the prize that awaits the winner of the U.S. presidential election in November?

■ "Eyewitness: Vote" by Philip Steele travels the world to explain how people have voted throughout history and how various countries hold elections today. This book is from DK Publishing, so you know it's rich in pictures; it includes a wall chart and CD with clip art for that election project you're sure to be assigned in October. For ages 9-12.

■ "White House Q&A" by Denise Rinaldo takes you inside 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Check out the private movie theater and the children's handprints in some of the garden paving stones, and become an expert on presidential trivia. For example: What kind of animal was Alice Roosevelt's pet Emily Spinach? (Hint: Rhymes with rake.) For ages 5-9.

Want to know more about the voting process and the prize that awaits the winner of the U.S. presidential election in November? Check out DK Publishing's "Eyewitness: Vote" by Philip Steele and "White House Q&A" by Denise Rinaldo.
THE WASHINGTON POST

KIDSDAY SMILES

Jokes for kids

By KIDSDAY STAFF REPORTERS
(C) 2008, NEWSDAY

What did the tie say to the shirt?
Nothing, ties can't talk!

If 20 birds read terrible tales, how many "b's" would there be in all?
None—there are no "b's" in the word "all."

What did one eye say to the other?
Between you and me, something smells.

What did the whale put on its toast?
Jellyfish.

How do small people travel?
In a minivan.

What should you do when 19 guys are running at you?
Throw the football.

What is black when you buy it, red when you use it and gray when you throw it away?
Charcoal.

How do you know if an ocean is friendly?
It will wave.

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Shelby.
Shelby who?
Shelby coming 'round the mountain when she comes.

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Howie.
Howie who?
Howie doin'?

What is a secret agent's favorite superhero?
Spy-derman.

How do you make seven an even number?
Remove the "s."

How do you fix a torn pizza?
With tomato paste.

Why did the student take lipstick and eye shadow to school?
She had to take a makeup test.

Why wouldn't the teacher show his student how to connect two points?
Because that is where he drew the line.

What bird should never guard a bank?
A robin.

Why did the computer get glasses?
To improve its Web sight.

A note from a pianist to her husband:
Gone Chopin, have Liszt, be Bach in a minuet.

Why are fish so smart?
They stay in school a lot.

What do you call a cow with no legs?
Ground beef

What kind of music do elves like?
Gift rap.

Sue's mother has four daughters. April, May and June are three of the daughters. Who is the fourth daughter?
Sue.

What kind of tree is found in a kitchen?
A pantry.

BOOK REVIEW

By MACON MOREHOUSE
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

"Ever," by Gail Carson Levine

Ages 9-12

What would you do for love? In "Ever," Gail Carson Levine's newest book, two characters named Kezi and Olus are put to that test. Can they overcome their deepest fears and find happiness?

Levine, who also wrote "Ella Enchanted" and the "Princess Tales" series, dips into the world of magic once again, drawing from mythology, religion and ancient worlds.

In "Ever," author Gail Carson Levine mixes magic, humor and tragedy to explore the power of love and the sacrifices it takes.
THE WASHINGTON POST

Kezi, who loves to dance and weaves beautiful rugs, dreams of marrying by age 16 like other young girls from well-to-do families in her world.

Olus, the Akkan god of wind — his mother, Hannu, is goddess of earth and pottery (which she throws when she's mad, causing earthquakes) — grows up fascinated by the lives of mortals, especially the beautiful Kezi.

But their love seems doomed from the start. After all, a mortal's lifespan is a blink of an eye compared with that of a god, who lives forever. When Kezi's sacrificial act of bravery to save a beloved family member threatens to cut even that short time together, the two set out on a seemingly impossible quest to change their destinies and perhaps that of an entire nation.

Ultimately, Kezi and Olus must discover whether they can defy fate and make their own happiness.

In "Ever," Levine mixes magic, humor and tragedy to explore the power of love and the sacrifices it takes to get to happily ever after.

Speaking up for sharks

By JULIET EILPERIN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Jim Toomey, the cartoonist who draws "Sherman's Lagoon," wants kids to get active on behalf of sharks.

This might seem like an unlikely cause, since plenty of kids—and adults, too—fear sharks. But Toomey, who came up with the idea for a cartoon about a shark's lagoon while vacationing in the Bahamas when he was 9 or 10, is convinced that he can help people realize why sharks matter.

Scientists are just beginning to understand how important sharks are to the ocean and how overfishing has wiped out most of the sharks that have dominated marine ecosystems for millions of years. As the top predators in the sea, sharks both eliminate sick and dying fish and ensure that mid-level predators such as rays don't multiply to such massive numbers that they crowd out smaller fish.

Sonja Fordham, who directs the shark conservation program at the Ocean Conservancy, a group that works to protect ocean life, said some species such as porbeagle, sandbar and dusky sharks have been particularly hard hit.

One of the greatest threats to sharks is finning, in which fishermen cut off a shark's fins and throw the rest of the fish back in the water, where the shark almost always dies. They do this to supply Asian markets that make shark-fin soup, an expensive treat.

"Some of these sharks are so overfished they may not recover in kids' lifetimes," Fordham said.

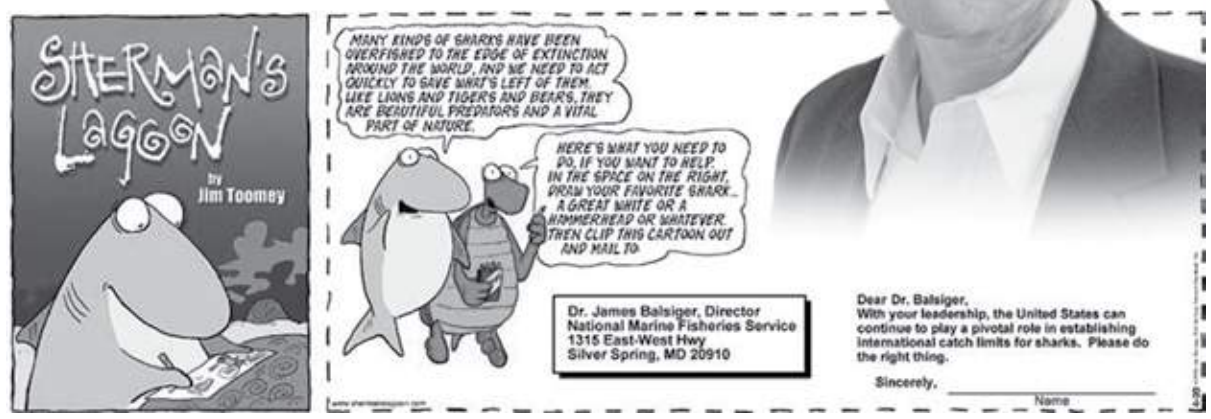
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service, which oversees sharks and other marine resources for the U.S. government, has taken several steps recently to protect sharks. In April the agency announced that it would prohibit fishermen from cutting off sharks' fins before bringing the fish ashore, and it reduced the number of sandbar and porbeagle sharks that can be caught in U.S. waters.

Toomey, for his part, recently drew some cartoons aimed at strengthening shark protections. In one, he urged readers to write to James Balsiger, who directs the fisheries agency, to push for international limits on shark fishing. In another cartoon, Sherman, the cartoon strip's central character, loses his fins.

"If shark populations continue to plummet and we don't change our ways, it will be the kids who will lose," Toomey told KidsPost. "My kids won't have a chance to see a shark in the wild and be inspired the way I did. And that's a shame. So, having the voice of shark conservation come from the children is particularly appropriate and poignant. It will be their world one day soon, and they should be telling us to take better care of it. Doing so with drawings will give them all a voice—even my 3-year-old."

It remains to be seen how many kids will write Balsiger to demand greater shark-conservation efforts. "I'm looking forward to see if my grandchildren send me a card," he said.

Jim Toomey, the cartoonist who draws "Sherman's Lagoon," wants kids to get active on behalf of sharks. Plenty of kids (and adults, too) fear sharks, but Toomey is convinced that he can help people realize why sharks matter.
THE WASHINGTON POST


SHERMAN'S LAGOON
by Jim Toomey
MANY KINDS OF SHARKS HAVE BEEN OVERFISHED TO THE EDGE OF EXTINCTION AROUND THE WORLD, AND WE NEED TO ACT QUICKLY TO SAVE WHAT'S LEFT OF THEM. LIKE LIONS AND TIGERS AND BEARS, THEY ARE BEAUTIFUL PREDATORS AND A VITAL PART OF NATURE.
HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO DO, IF YOU WANT TO HELP. IN THE SPACE ON THE RIGHT, DRAW YOUR FAVORITE SHARK... A GREAT WHITE OR A HAMMERHEAD OR WHATEVER. THEN CLIP THIS CARTOON OUT AND MAIL TO:
Dr. James Balsiger, Director
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Hwy
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Dear Dr. Balsiger,
With your leadership, the United States can continue to play a pivotal role in establishing international catch limits for sharks. Please do the right thing.
Sincerely,
Name

A view of our favorite sharks

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

More than 9,000 kids responded when Jim Toomey asked them, in the "Sherman's Lagoon" cartoon reprinted at left, to speak out on behalf of threatened sharks. In fact, the staff at the federal Fisheries Service was still opening letters Monday, so that number continues to grow.

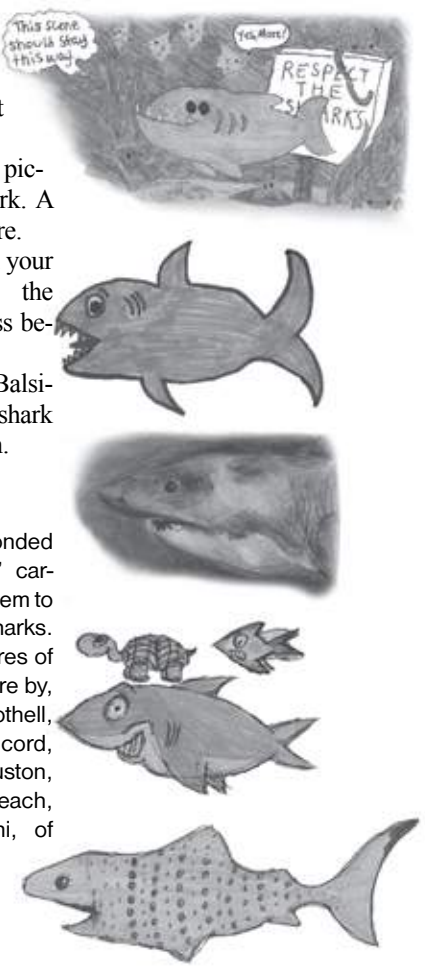
Most of the kids drew pictures of their favorite shark. A few of them are printed here.

If you would like to add your drawing—and voice—to the list, see the mailing address below.

For the record, James Balsiger did receive a card and shark drawing from his grandson.

■■■

Dr. James Balsiger, Director
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Hwy.
Silver Spring, MD 20910



More than 9,000 kids responded when "Sherman's Lagoon" cartoonist Jim Toomey asked them to speak up for threatened sharks. Most of the kids drew pictures of their favorite shark. These are by, from top, Emily Han, of Bothell, Wash., Aurora Miner, of Concord, Calif., Sage Muttel, of Houston, Sophia Zanders, of Long Beach, Calif., and Emma Sarconi, of Lafayette, Calif.
THE WASHINGTON POST

Black on 'Panda': Dude, that's so skidoosh

By SCOTT MOORE
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Jack Black is back in the spotlight this summer in "Kung Fu Panda," an animated PG comedy that opens in theaters Friday. Black voices the lead character, Po, an out-of-shape bear who must train in martial arts to battle evil. KidsPost spoke with the actor about the movie, the business and "skidoosh":

Q: Is being funny as easy as it looks?

A: "When the work is good, it's fun. It's not easy to have fun, though, when the pressure is on. There's a trick to it. The key is relaxation. But if you're doing what you love, it's worth all the work. I love to entertain. There's a lot of memorization and scary moments when you have to get in front of a lot of people and try to be funny."

Q: And people expect you to be funny all the time?

A: "Sometimes people come up to me and feel like they know me and expect some high-energy entertainment. They're like, 'Hey, man, I bought a ticket to your movie, so you owe me some more dancing.' Sometimes I do a little dance, and then I run at top speed."

Q: Do fans also quote some of your movie lines to you?

A: "Yeah, I hear a lot from 'Nacho Libre' and 'School of Rock,' but I can't remember any of the lines off the top of my head. From 'Kung Fu Panda,' there's a lot of funny parts, but maybe I'll hear some 'skidoosh' here and there."

Q: "Awesomeness," "bodacious" and "skidoosh" from "Kung Fu Panda" are going to be the hot words of the summer.

A: "Yeah, you should buy stock in 'skidoosh.' "

Q: Why do you think you are so popular with kids?

A: "I have a certain energy that is childlike. I'm a clown by nature. Kids respond to that. It's in my DNA, I think. It's not really something that I decided I wanted to be."

Q: You were active and moving around when reading the lines for "Kung Fu Panda." How important was that?

A: "It helps me to get into character when I physicalize what I'm doing. If my character is supposed to be out of breath, I like to be out of breath. It's very method-y. Maybe I was inspired because I was in a movie with Dustin Hoffman (the voice of the red panda Shifu, who trains Po), the king of method acting. There's that famous story of him staying up for 72 hours to do a movie where the character is going to be awake for 72 hours. I'm not that intense, but I'm from the same school, I guess. ...

"Also, I like to physicalize because they had a camera on me and I thought maybe the animators would get a little inspiration from my power moves."

Q: What are your best kung fu moves?

A: "I do have a dance move that's kind of a barrel kick."

Q: Po and Nacho have some similarities. Did you approach them in the same way?

A: "When you're doing an animated feature, you have a lot more room for improvisation, so I had a lot more fun with that part of the process. ...

"It might be my best stuff in this movie, even though you can't see me."

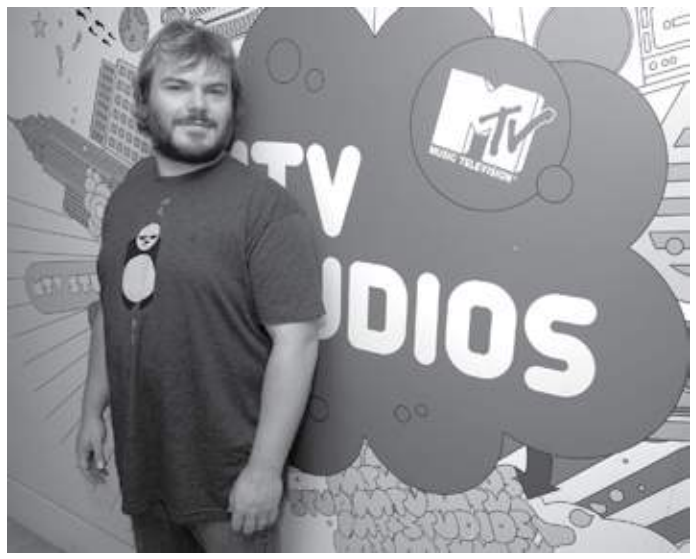
Q: What advice do you have for kids who want to get into show business?

A: "What's important is a sense of adventure and following the little inner voice in your head. ...

"If you're thinking about it as a business, like selling shoes, it's going to be hard to come up with anything people want to watch. You have to think of it as fun."

Q: Both of your parents were rocket scientists. If you built your own rocket, where would you go?

A: "I'd just take a round trip. I wouldn't land anywhere. I'd take a quick space mission: I'd go to Saturn—it's the coolest-looking—or maybe Neptune. But then I'd just come home, because I like my television better than anywhere in the universe."



AP
This image released by Paramount Pictures shows the giant panda Po, voiced by Jack Black, and Master Shifu, voiced by Dustin Hoffman, in a scene from "Kung Fu Panda."

Getting to know Jack Black

By SCOTT MOORE
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Born: Aug. 28, 1969.

Family: Married to cellist-singer Tanya Haden (who does the voice of a bunny waitress at the beginning of "Kung Fu Panda"). Their son, Sam, turns 2 this month. A second child is expected this year.

Kid-friendly roles: Include PG-rated "Nacho Libre" and the PG-13 "School of Rock." He has hosted Nickelodeon's Kids Choice Awards and did voices for animated characters in "Shark Tale" (rated PG) and "The Simpsons" TV show.

Pets: "I'm thinking about getting an aquarium. I like those silver-dollar fish. I might take Sam down to the fish store and let him choose some fish."

Favorite pizza topping: "Pepperoni. Although I'm sure everybody says pepperoni, so I might have to switch up and go shrimp."

Favorite cartoon: "I like the old Disneys, but I'll go with 'SpongeBob SquarePants.'"

Most awesome toy you owned as a kid: Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots.

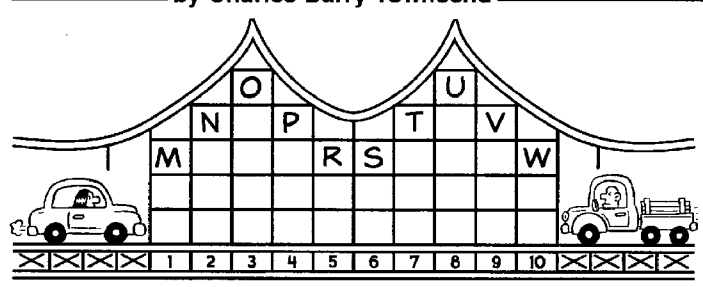
Favorite superhero: "I always liked the Flash. He can run at the speed of light."

DON'T WIPE OUT ON THIS ONE! Hidden in the above frame is a famous old saying. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around the frame counterclockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Starting with the "T" in the bottom rail: "Time and tide wait for no man."

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



A WORD BRIDGE!
The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter plus plenty of hints:

1. To combine audio tracks.
2. The back of the neck.
3. Slender woodwind instruments.
4. Type of fuel found in bogs.
5. Type of music.
6. Lack of candor.
7. To exclude or forbid.
8. A brownish color.
9. Very great in area.
10. An ironic sense of humor.

Answers: 1. Mix. 2. Nape. 3. Oboes. 4. Peat. 5. Rap. 6. Sly. 7. Tabu. 8. Umber. 9. Vast. 10. Wry.

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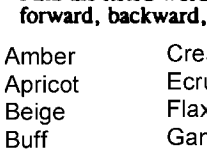
THE OLD, OLD MATH! Here's how to prove that 4 plus 6 equals 11. Using Roman numerals, write down a 4 (fig. 1). Turn the paper around and write a 6 above it (fig. 2). You now have a large 11 (XI). Who says the New Math is better than the Old?

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below the diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: taco, tact, tart, tare, tort, tore, tome, tomb.

Strange BUT TRUE

By SAMANTHA WEAVER

■ The next time you're in Dublin, Ireland (if ever you are there), you might want to stop by the pub known as Charlie P's and check out its unique look. The building where it's located used to be a morgue, and the flooring is made entirely of gravestones.

■ It was famed 19th-century French author Victor Hugo who made the following observation: "The first symptom of love in a young man is timidity; in a girl, boldness."

■ Italian politician Silvio Berlusconi has a well-known hatred of garlic. He so abhors this relative of the onion that, in 2007, he tried to have it banned in Italian restaurants.

■ For many Americans, mention of the processed meat product Spam brings to mind Spam sandwiches, Spam and eggs and Spam salad. For those for whom these memories are more fond than otherwise, there is a surprising variety of events at which to celebrate this iconic product. Austin, Texas, hosts an annual Spamarama, which includes the Spam Ball, the Spamalympics, the Spam Jam and, of course, the Spam Cook-Off. In Hawaii, the canned meat is celebrated at the Waikiki Spam Jam, where a Mr. or Ms. Spam is crowned amid a huge street party. And Austin, Minn., home to the plant that produces Spam, is also home to the First Century Museum, whose exhibit of Spam memorabilia is the most popular attraction.

■ On at least one early map of the New World you'll see the name "Codfish Country" on the area now known as the United States.

■ According to not one, but two studies conducted on the subject, those who have a ring finger that is longer than their index finger tend to be better athletes.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "The more original a discovery, the more obvious it seems afterwards." —Arthur Koestler

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MAGIC MAZE ● SHADES OF YELLOW

J	I	E	B	Y	M	V	R	O	L	I	F	C	Z	W
T	Q	N	K	I	U	F	C	Z	W	U	R	P	M	J
H	E	C	I	Z	S	X	U	S	Q	N	L	J	G	E
C	Z	X	V	K	T	U	T	R	P	N	L	J	H	E
C	A	Y	W	V	A	T	B	R	E	P	N	L	K	I
G	E	C	B	Z	R	H	X	L	G	G	X	M	R	W
U	S	R	N	P	D	E	K	O	O	M	I	A	L	J
I	G	R	E	O	D	B	B	A	B	O	E	E	L	F
Y	O	X	W	E	M	I	L	M	M	P	H	R	B	F
C	U	T	T	O	C	I	R	P	A	U	R	C	E	U
S	Q	P	O	N	E	D	L	O	G	N	L	K	S	B

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Amber	Cream	Golden	Mustard
Apricot	Ecru	Khaki	Pear
Beige	Flax	Lime	School bus
Buff	Gamboge	Limon	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		x		33
x		÷		+	
	–		x		35
÷		+		÷	
	x		–		24
4		16		2	

1 2 3 4 4 5 7 8 9

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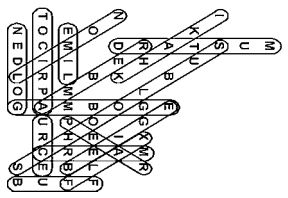
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



SHADES OF YELLOW

GO FIGURE ANSWER

4	×	16	–	2	=
+		+		+	
2	×	9	–	1	=
×		÷		+	
3	×	3	–	5	=
=		=		=	
33		24		35	

Fostering a pet

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Recent news reports about shelters being overloaded with pets needing a good home have me concerned. I wanted to write and ask you to remind readers that a shelter pet can be a great pet. And, for your readers who want to help even further, many shelters have foster care programs for pets needing extra TLC. Please let them know! —Shirley S., Haverhill, Mass.

DEAR SHIRLEY: Thank you for spreading the word! Pet foster care is not a new concept, but the idea of in-home care for pets awaiting a permanent home is taking hold in the U.S.

Foster care is often recommended for animals that need additional care, such as dogs with respiratory infections that need a low-stress environment and daily medications. Puppies and kittens that are too young to be spayed or neutered also need foster care, as do nursing dogs or cats and their litters—which benefit from experience in a home environment with human contact.

Potential foster "parents" must meet certain criteria and should be aware of the challenges of caring for shelter animals. For example, foster pets should be separated from family pets. The shelter also determines how long a foster pet will stay in a home, and when or if the pet is ready for adoption.

The best way to learn if you're able to foster a pet is to read as much as you can—the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (www.spca.com) has information online about its foster program. Ask about fostering at your local shelter. If you know someone who fosters pets, ask them about their experience.

Most of all, make an informed decision about whether to become a foster parent. Not everyone can make the commitment, and that's all right. But if you have the space and the time to temporarily care for a dog or cat in need, your local shelter needs you.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Save $$$ on your grocery bill

Donna's Day Creative family fun
by Donna Erickson

When little kids think of saving money, they think of piggy banks. That's certainly a start, but saving is more than taking what you have and putting it in a cute, fat, pink thing. It's also about watching how you spend money.

Coupons are a fun way to show children that if you're careful about how you purchase things, you actually can save a lot. Make saving money on groceries and basic household items a family affair. First, ask your kids if they would like to go shopping together. When you've got a few takers, invite them to sit down and begin -- at home.

Here's what you'll need:

Sunday newspaper

Standard-size business envelopes

Markers

Poster board or a bulletin board

Before you go:

Open the Sunday paper and pull out the coupons. This is an activity that works for nonreaders as well as readers. Product recognition is at work. Use the scissors to snip out any products you've seen around the house, or try some new ones. Check for online coupons of your favorite products, too. Print and clip.

When you're all done, take the envelopes and think of some handy categories, such as:

HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES
BREAKFASTS
SCHOOL LUNCHES
DINNERS
TREATS
PETS

Write these words on the flap side of different envelopes, but also be sure to cut out a little picture of a product that best represents the category and glue it on the envelope as well. That way, nonreaders can participate in the next step. Mount these envelopes on a big piece of poster board, or pin them to a bulletin board.

Now start sorting. (This is a terrific way to teach valuable sorting skills.) Cookies and cake mixes go in the envelope marked TREATS. Cereals, waffles and bagels get tucked into BREAKFASTS, and so on.

When you're ready to go shopping, check the list of what you need against the coupons you have collected, and put the appropriate ones in a little pencil case. Tell your kids, "Come on! Let's go to the store and save some money!"

Quick tip: It might be fun with older kids to sit down and add up exactly what you've saved after each trip. Encourage them to keep a running chart. At the end of the month they'll be amazed at how quickly you've amassed just the right amount of money for a family outing.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Medal of Honor winner matured to 'natural' soldier

By DAN NEPHIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AP
In this undated family handout released to the Oil City Derrick shows Pfc. Ross McGinnis of Knox, Pa.

AP
President Bush presents Romayne McGinnis, center, and her husband Tom McGinnis, left, with their son's Medal of Honor as they take part in a Medal of Honor ceremony, Monday, June 2, 2008, in the East Room of the White House in Washington, for their son Army Pfc. Ross McGinnis of Knox, Pa., who was killed in Iraq, Dec. 4, 2006.

SHIPPENVILLE, Pa. (AP)—Growing up in a small rural town, Ross McGinnis was more apt to get in trouble than on the honor roll. So he enlisted in the Army, and in just under a year found his soul mate, a brotherhood, and even himself.

"I just cannot wait for the day when I can connect all 3 lives into one," McGinnis wrote on his MySpace page. "But that day will not be for a long time."

The 19-year-old private first class never got that chance.

He was in the gunner's hatch of a Humvee on Dec. 4, 2006, when a grenade sailed past him and into the vehicle where four other soldiers sat. He shouted a warning, then jumped back-first onto the grenade, which blew up and killed him.

He was posthumously presented the nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor during Memorial Day.

"Ross was a hero, I mean, he was honestly the type of soldier that was trustworthy, that was reliable, that was dependable before combat. He loved doing what he was doing," said Ian Newland, one of the soldiers McGinnis saved.

McGinnis grew up in the small town of Knox, about 60 miles northeast of Pittsburgh, where he lived with his parents, Tom and Romayne, and older sisters Becky and Katie. His father jokes that he's a redneck: unsophisticated and living in rural northwestern Pennsylvania. He works at an auto supply store. Romayne works at Wal-Mart.

Tom McGinnis believes his son's story must be told truthfully, rough patches and all.

"He wasn't the hero in the sense that a lot of people that think of heroes," his father said. "He made some bad decisions, but he still turned out to be a good person ... And that's really the message that I'm trying to get across by pointing out his faults. Not that I'm trying to disparage him in some way."

So he tells of his son's arrest for being caught with marijuana in school, at age 14, and of getting expelled for the rest of eighth grade. He finished at an alternative school that he liked so much he didn't want to return to regular school.

"He didn't pick up things at school like he should, for whatever reason. And his grades always suffered," his father said.

Eventually, Ross McGinnis decided the Army could provide him training as an automotive technician. He enlisted on his 17th birthday, June 14, 2004. "When he told us that he was going to enlist, we didn't discourage him, because we knew he wasn't college material," his father said.

However, once in uniform Ross proved himself a quick learner and showed leadership.

He met his girlfriend Christina, whom he called his soul mate and true love, while stationed in Germany. That's also where he developed tight bonds with his fellow soldiers.

"He definitely loved to make jokes and get everyone laughing, but when things got serious ... you only had to tell Ross one time. He had it down," recalled Newland, 28, who was a sergeant when McGinnis was assigned to him in Germany. "He was a natural."

The two became close before deploying to Iraq. McGinnis often spent weekends with Newland, his wife, daughter and son, becoming part of the family.

"That's the way my family viewed him and the other soldiers as well. We all saw him as a brother," said Newland, who retired in November because of his shrapnel injuries from the grenade attack.

"My daughter still, every night when she says her prayers, thanks Ross for saving her daddy's life," he said.

While stationed overseas, McGinnis e-mailed his father to apologize for the problems he caused when he was young. In his reply, Tom McGinnis told his son there was no need to say he was sorry, and that he wished he had been a better provider to his family.

Ross McGinnis proudly shared the e-mail with several fellow soldiers.

"He said they bonded more that one day than they had throughout their training," his father said. "When he called home to tell me about it ... He says 'You son of a bitch, you made me cry.'"

McGinnis only came home twice on leave before he was killed, the last time for a couple of weeks in the spring of 2006. His family noticed how he matured since enlisting.

"He was more reserved and more confident and seemed to stand a lot taller, although he didn't grow any while he was in the Army," his father said. "He was a man. Unfortunately, we never really got to know him as a man. He was a child when he left, he got to visit with us a couple times, then he was gone."

McGinnis last spoke to his parents on a Friday, three days before he was killed. He called his mother at her job Wal-Mart, where it was easier to reach her.

"So I'd take the call out on the floor. You talk about hard to keep your composure when your son is calling from Iraq," she recalled.

He told her his picture was on the front of Stars and Stripes, the U.S. military newspaper, accompanying an article about his unit coming under attack after Saddam Hussein was convicted.

"He was really proud of that picture and he carried it with him, they said. And he called and told us about it," his father said. "And on Monday, I was bragging about his fame. Monday night, we learned that he was dead."

More than a year after his death, friends still leave messages to McGinnis on his MySpace page. "Hey man i miss you so much and i wish you were here," one poster wrote in April.

The other soldiers in the Humvee - Sgt. Lyle Buehler, Sgt. 1st Class Cedric Thomas and Spc. Sean Lawson - are still in the military. They planned to attend Monday's Medal of Honor ceremony but were unavailable for interviews, an Army spokesman said.

Newland still struggles with knowing he's alive because of his friend's sacrifice. If McGinnis had jumped from the Humvee to save his own life, as he had been trained, no one would have faulted him, Newland said.

"I've never felt more proud in my life to have known somebody and have shared so many experiences with somebody and to have someone call me their friend," Newland said, "but at the same time, never felt so guilty and ripped apart from the inside and outside and almost wishful that events could have been changed."

At Harvard, Rowling stresses role of imagination

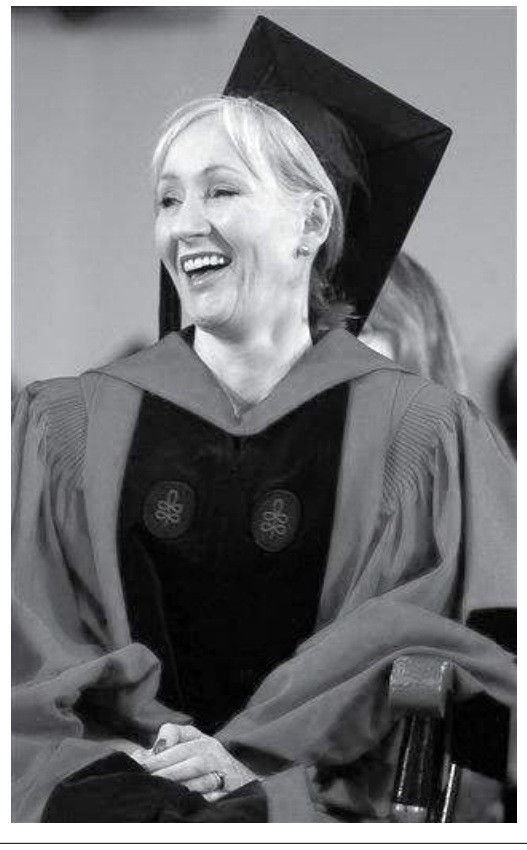
CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) -- J.K. Rowling stressed the crucial importance of imagination during a speech Thursday at Harvard University's spring commencement, saying, "We do not need magic to transform our world."

The "Harry Potter" author also spoke about the benefit of failure, recalling the humiliations of her time in poverty before her career took off with her string of novels about a bespectacled boy wizard.

Before the speech, some members of Harvard's class of 1936 paid tribute to Rowling by carrying brooms during an alumni procession.

President Drew Gilpin Faust also welcomed witches, wizards and Muggles - non-magical people in Rowling's books - to the commencement. Faust noted that there was a larger number of young children than normally expected for a Harvard graduation and that she knew she was the just "the warm-up act."

Rowling, who was given an honorary doctor of letters degree, urged the Harvard grads to use their influence and status to speak out on behalf of the powerless.



AP
Author J.K. Rowling laughs during Harvard University commencement exercises, Thursday, June 5, 2008 in Cambridge, Mass., where she received an honorary degree.

"We do not need magic to transform our world," she said. "We carry all the power we need inside ourselves already; we have the power to imagine better."

Imagination gives one the ability to empathize with others, she said.

"Imagination is not only the uniquely human capacity to envision that which is not, and therefore the fount of all invention and innovation," Rowling said. "In its arguably most transformative and revelatory capacity, it is the power that enables us to empathize with humans whose experiences we have never shared."

Rowling described a low point seven years after graduating from college, when she was a poor single mother.

"The knowledge that you have emerged wiser and stronger from setbacks means that you are ever after secure in your ability to survive," Rowling said. "You will never truly know yourself, or the strength of your relationships, until both have been tested by adversity."

She called such knowledge "a true gift, for all that it is painfully won, and it has been worth more to me than any qualification I ever earned."

De la Fuente recovers from 'Dancing' injury

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Third-place "Dancing With the Stars" finisher Cristian de la Fuente is back in the swing of things.

The 33-year-old actor, who tore a tendon in his biceps while performing on the ABC dance competition, is recovering well from surgery, his publicist said Thursday.

"The doctor said it was a perfect repair," publicist Cynthia Snyder told The Associated Press. "He had his stitches out on Tuesday. Everything is going well."

Friday marks two weeks since the procedure, she said, adding that de la Fuente is wearing a brace until his recovery is complete.

The actor went to Disneyland Wednesday with his "Dancing" partner, Cheryl Burke. De la Fuente has also been making appearances to promote his new USA Network show, "In Plain Sight," in which he plays the boyfriend of the main character, Mary McCormack.

AP

In this image released by Disneyland, former dance partners on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars," Cristian De la Fuente, right, and Cheryl Burke pose at the "Indiana Jones Summer of Hidden Mysteries" at Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif., on Wednesday, June 4, 2008.

Hogan's son transferred out of solitary in Fla. jail

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) -- Deputies at a west Florida jail have transferred Hulk Hogan's son out of solitary confinement into a communal cell.

Bollea

Seventeen-year-old Nick Bollea is now sharing living space with three other juvenile inmates.

He initially was segregated because he is a minor, albeit convicted in adult court. A judge denied a transfer request from his lawyers on Tuesday.

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Cecilia Barreda says housing assignments are routinely reviewed because the jail's population constantly changes. That created an opportunity to house juveniles together.

Bollea is serving an eight-month sentence after pleading no contest to causing a crash that seriously injured his friend.

Publisher sues Victoria Gotti over book advance

NEW YORK (AP)—A book publisher has sued Victoria Gotti for the return of an advance she was paid to write a memoir she never delivered.

HarperCollins Publishers LLC says in court papers filed Thursday in New York that the book was due in 2005. Gotti notified HarperCollins last September she was terminating the contract.

The lawsuit says the daughter of the late "Dapper Don" John Gotti and star of the reality show "Growing Up Gotti" did not return the $70,000 advance.

Literary agent Frank Weiman says his client will return the money when he gets her another deal.

Weiman says Gotti made her book deal with former publishing heavyweight Judith Regan and that Gotti canceled because Regan and other editors his client dealt with left HarperCollins.

In this March 9, 2006, file photo, Victoria Gotti, sister of John Gotti Jr., leaves Manhattan federal court in New York.

AP

R. Kelly defense expert: Mark in video not a mole

CHICAGO (AP) -- A forensic expert testified Thursday at R. Kelly's child pornography trial that a fingernail-sized mark seen on the lower back of the man in the sex tape at the center of the case was not a mole but video distortion.

Video analysis expert Charles Palm testified for the defense that the black mark appears - and disappears - because the video has been duplicated so many times.

Jurors last week watched a 4-by-4-foot monitor where freeze frames of the man's back were shown. Just above his waistline was a mark that the prosecution's forensics expert, Grant Fredericks, said appeared to be a mole. He compared the frames with 2002 police photos of Kelly's back, concluding the spots were in the exact same position.

Rosie says she's waiting to remarry Kelli

NEW YORK (AP)—Ellen DeGeneres is doing it. So is George Takei. But Rosie O'Donnell isn't jumping at the chance to walk down the aisle.

O'Donnell and her girlfriend, Kelli Carpenter, were married four years ago when the mayor of San Francisco allowed same-sex marriages. The California Supreme Court later declared such marriages invalid.

Now the state's highest court has ruled that denying same-sex marriages was discriminatory, and many gay and lesbian couples, including DeGeneres and girlfriend Portia de Rossi and Takei and his partner, Brad Altman, are planning to tie the knot.

O'Donnell told AP Radio that she and Carpenter are "going to wait until it's legal everywhere, because otherwise, I said to Kelli, we'll be going around touring the country on the marriage tour every state by state."

"Once it gets to be at the federal level, once every state recognizes the marriages of every other state, I think that'll be the time we would do it," the 46-year-old comedian said.

Asked if she thought that time was near, O'Donnell replied, "Yes."

"The same way it was illegal for black and white people to marry at one point and people couldn't conceive of that ever being different, I do think that two consenting, law-abiding adults who want to share their life together should be allowed to do that," she said.

AP

In this April 13, 2008, file photo, comedian Rosie O'Donnell arrives at Comedy Central's "Night of Too Many Stars" special, benefiting autism education at The Beacon Theatre in New York.

Soldier's dad is touched by stranger's generosity

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I am one of your many male readers. I have been up all night and need to put my thoughts down and thank someone for his act of kindness to my son.

My son, a U.S. infantry soldier, left yesterday for a 12-month deployment. After a tearful goodbye to me and to his young wife at the airport, he flew to Atlanta to join the other members of his unit for their flights overseas. He called me the evening he reached Atlanta and related this story:

He was eating a late dinner at a restaurant in the Atlanta airport. A man who appeared to be about 60 years old saw him show his military ID to the waitress when he ordered a drink with his meal. The man took my son's dinner check when he got up to leave, saying, "Let me buy a soldier a meal." When my son tried to politely refuse, the man insisted and said it was his way to thank him for what he was doing. Because Army privates don't make much money, my son was grateful. This act of kindness made a strong impression.

To that kind gentleman, I want you to know that this father is grateful, too. I sent my son into harm's way yesterday, and you, sir, a stranger, took care of him on his journey. You bought him a meal when I could not. Thank you, and God bless you.

A SOLDIER'S GRATEFUL DAD

DEAR GRATEFUL DAD: I'm pleased to convey your gratitude. Today 190,000 members of our U.S. military are stationed in Afghanistan and Iraq doing tours -- and extended tours -- of active duty. It is completely appropriate for any civilian who sees someone in uniform to approach that person and offer thanks for his or her service. The gentleman who treated your son to dinner did it in a more tangible way than many do -- and for that he is to be commended.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My father, "Jim," married a beautiful, nice, smart woman a short while ago. I love her enough to consider her a second mom, but when she refers to me, she never does it by name. If she's talking to Dad about me, she'll refer to me as "your daughter" or "your kid." If she's talking to her son or daughter about me, she'll say, "Jim's kid." I only know she's talking to me if she's looking at me because she never uses my name.

I wish she knew how much this hurts my feelings. I don't want to confront her because I'm afraid of causing problems. Why can't she call me by my given name?

HAVE A NAME IN BUFFALO, MO.

DEAR HAS A NAME: Your father's beautiful, nice and smart new wife strikes me as somewhat insensitive. However, she won't know that her actions are hurtful until you tell her. You don't have to be confrontational when you do -- just tell her that your feelings are hurt because you don't feel recognized as a person. If she's as nice as you say, she'll make an effort to do better.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a simple question. When is it OK to stop saying I am divorced and start to say I am a single person?

PATRICIA IN RIVERVIEW, FLA.

DEAR PATRICIA: I have a simple answer. You are no longer "single." As a person who has been married and divorced, you are now a divorcee -- and will be until such time as you remarry.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

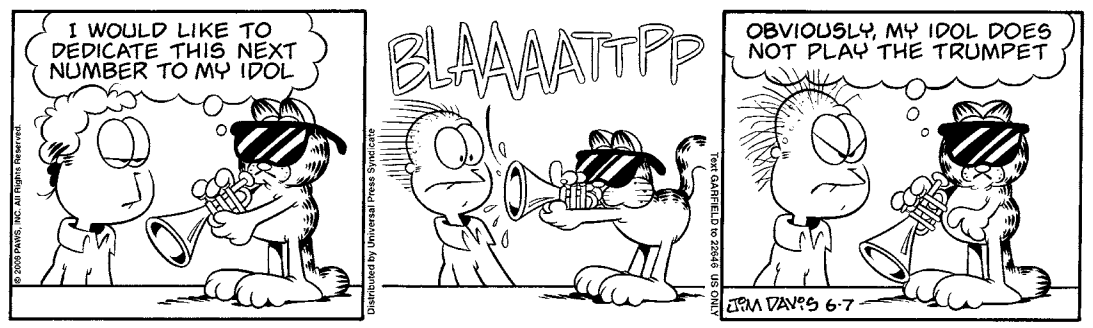
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HELLO, I'M WONDERING IF YOU SELL KEGS OF DYNAMITE.
YOU DON'T? HOW ABOUT PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES?
YOU'RE KIDDING. WELL, WHAT ABOUT LAND MINES? DO YOU SELL THOSE? ... YOU DON'T?
LOOK, I'M TRYING TO SEND A GIRL I KNOW INTO DEEP SPACE. PERHAPS YOU COULD SUGGEST SOMETHING.
6/7

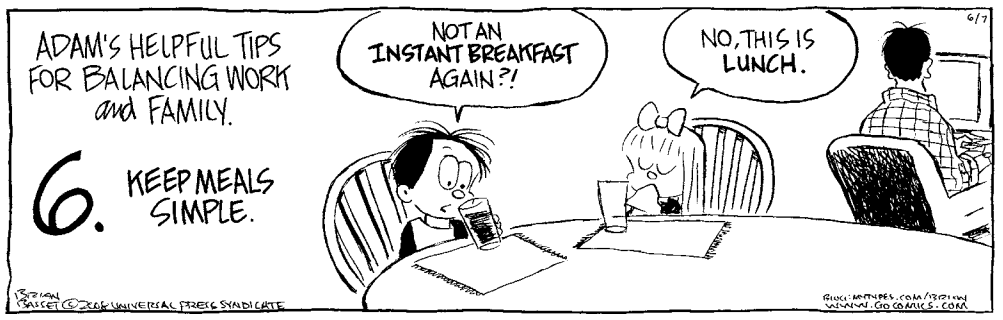
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



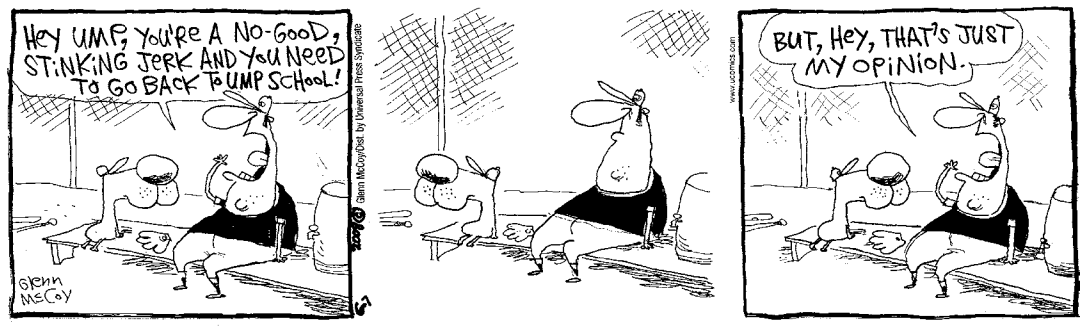
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Harvester's output
5 Squeal to the cops
9 Billboards
12 Frau's mate
13 Mine entrance
14 Wager
15 Data
16 Office note
17 Flightless bird
18 Dandy, in Devonshire
19 Prohibit
20 Lummox
21 Greek vowel
23 "Eureka!"
25 Derby entries
28 Re choppers
32 Mistreatment
33 Blazing
34 Smallest amounts
36 Smoothed out
37 Columbus sch.
38 "Definitely"
39 Gospel writer
42 Reuben holder
44 Befit
48 Gorilla
49 "Groovy"
50 Erstwhile Peruvian
51 Press for payment
52 Desire
53 Stench
54 Curvaceous character?
55 Prepare a hook
56 Forbidden act

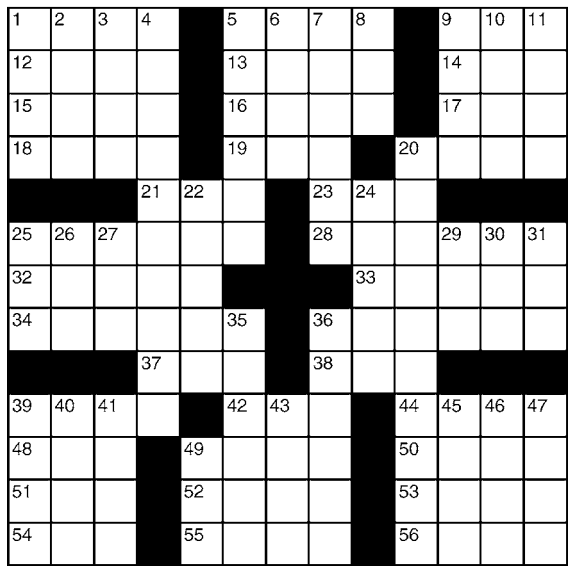
DOWN

1 IOU
2 Nevada city
3 German composer Carl
4 Career
5 Ballroom dances
6 Concept
7 Hunter
8 Pontiac muscle car
9 First victim
10 Showroom sample
11 Poker variety
20 Whodunit denouement
22 Abounds
24 Hurl hard
25 Scenery chewer
26 Sapporo sash
27 Diamond score
29 Stannum
30 Exist
31 Started
35 "Wayne's World" hometown
36 Grommet
39 Nephrite
40 Piece of work
41 Coop group
43 Boo Boo's mentor
45 Loosen
46 PC pic
47 Poi base
49 Newsroom newbie

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	I	M			T	R	A	P		M	E	S	A
D	O	E			I	O	T	A		O	V	E	R
D	U	C	K	B	I	L	L			R	E	A	M
			H	A	I	L			P	A	R	T	Y
O	M	A	H	A		B	I	O	S				
P	E	N	N		B	U	C	K	S	K	I	N	
A	N	I		A	R	R	A	Y		O	D	E	
H	U	C	K	F	I	N	N		A	W	L	S	
			N	A	G	S		J	U	T	E	S	
V	I	G	O	R			E	U	R	O			
O	B	I	T		T	U	C	K	A	W	A	Y	
T	I	L	T		O	G	R	E		E	V	E	
E	D	D	Y		T	H	U	S		R	A	W	

Yesterday's answer 6-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michael Cera, 20; Anna Kournikova, 27; Prince, 50; Liam Neeson, 56

Happy Birthday: You will be outgoing, entertaining and able to convince anyone of anything this year. You can make a difference if you voice your opinions and stand up for what you see as being right. You have so much to offer, so take center stage and jump into stardom. Your numbers are 6, 17, 22, 31, 35, 49

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Children, sports events or taking in an entertaining event should all be part of your day. The more involved you get in adventurous activities, the more accomplished you will feel. An exotic destination will lead to romance. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't give in to emotional games. Be strong and refuse to let anyone take advantage of you. Make sure that, whatever the task at hand, you get everyone involved. Don't take on too much. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You may feel like getting out and about but that will lead to expenses you don't want to incur. Instead, put your money and your time into fixing up your place. Home improvements, moves or entertaining friends and relatives should be on your agenda. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't let past experience deter you from moving forward with a partnership. Be dedicated if you want others to take you seriously. You may feel like being overindulgent but excessiveness will lead to trouble. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You will gain momentum and greater interest in your plans if you put your money and your time on the line. Your fast response and intuitive instincts will keep you in the game and on the road to victory. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't think that you can get away with friendly flirting. The signals you send will be taken the wrong way, resulting in trouble. Avoid anyone who appears to want to pry into your affairs. The less said, the better. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Travel, love and romance should all be in the mix today. Your motives are honorable, so don't be afraid to ask favors of people you've helped in the past. Your success will come down to who you know, not what you know. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Refrain from saying what you think. Disagreements are apparent and could lead to ruining plans to which you were looking forward. Security will be on your mind. Check your personal papers for mistakes. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Get in the game, have fun and play your hardest. Love is in motion and, with a little flirting, you will be on your way to a fun-filled evening. Enjoy the moment, the company and all that comes your way. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Wine and dine someone who can make a difference to your financial future and you will make gains. Don't be too worried about forking out for something you believe in, especially if it will result in a long-lasting partnership. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Someone may try to push you into an argument. If you refuse to retaliate, you will be able to keep the peace and have an amicable time instead of a feud. Take control and you can enjoy the good life. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You've got a lot going on and may have to combine a little business with pleasure in order to keep on top of things. The input you receive from a tradeshow, conference or industry event will allow you to develop and complete what you are intent on pursuing. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have a strong will and an imaginative mind. You are playful and loving and like to be the center of attention. You have strong values and will fight for whatever cause you believe in.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5					1			9
		4				7		
	2		4				1	
3						1		
			2	7	6			
		2						8
	6				5		2	
		1				3		
8			9					5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	4	8	9	6	2	1	5	7
9	6	7	1	3	5	8	4	2
1	5	2	8	4	7	6	9	3
6	9	4	7	8	1	2	3	5
8	3	1	5	2	4	9	7	6
2	7	5	6	9	3	4	1	8
4	2	9	3	5	8	7	6	1
5	1	6	2	7	9	3	8	4
7	8	3	4	1	6	5	2	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/06

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WIDE ARRAY TELESCOPES **Solution: 8 letters**

D	M	B	A	T	A	D	L	S	(R)	R	E	W	O	P
N	S	U	R	V	E	I	L	L	(A)	N	C	E	B	E
H	G	H	L	O	I	S	A	O	(E)	S	S	T	S	R
T	Y	I	A	T	A	H	M	W	(G)	A	C	O	E	F
G	C	G	S	P	I	D	S	P	H	E	P	I	R	O
N	B	N	O	E	E	P	A	P	J	M	S	D	V	R
E	E	A	O	L	D	N	U	B	I	V	Y	A	A	M
L	A	C	I	M	O	N	O	R	T	S	A	R	T	A
E	M	S	A	R	S	N	E	P	P	H	R	S	O	N
V	S	S	A	T	F	P	H	X	T	O	G	K	R	C
A	S	M	U	I	U	E	A	C	P	I	S	I	Y	E
W	I	D	E	S	I	Z	E	C	E	L	C	E	L	G
C	Y	L	V	I	S	I	B	L	E	T	O	S	R	N
E	D	U	T	I	N	G	A	M	O	D	E	R	N	A
A	D	J	U	S	T	N	E	M	P	I	U	Q	E	R

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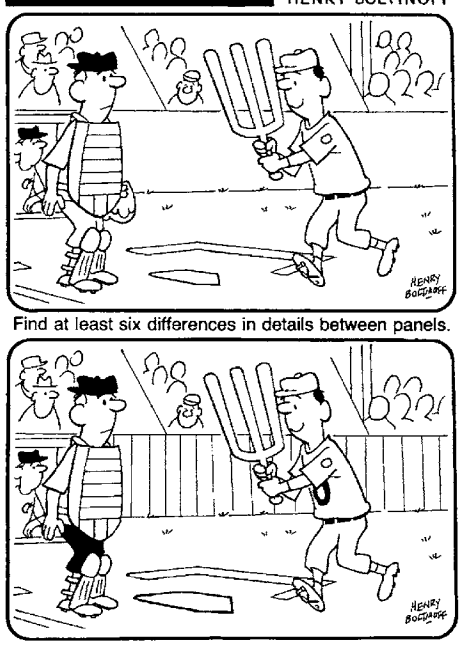
Adjust, Astronomical, Beams, Broad, Data, Design, Dish, Equipment, Explore, Field, Gear, Light, Magnitude, Mass, Modern, Multipurpose, Object, Observatory, Optics, Panoramic, Performance, Phase, Power, Radio, Range, Rays, Scan, Shape, Size, Skies, Slow, Small, Space, Study, Superimpose, Surveillance, Technology, Visible, Wavelength

Yesterday's Answer: Recovery

We listened to your requests! **TREASURY #5** is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 p&h ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume. $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword, Universal Press Syndicate, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Batter's shirt has number. 2. Catcher's mitt is missing. 3. Catcher's pants are black. 4. Part of crowd is missing. 5. Fence is different. 6. Home plate is bigger.

Wishing Well®

4	5	6	4	7	4	2	5	8	5	8	2	4
F	C	M	A	S	M	A	H	A	O	C	D	I
2	4	3	2	6	3	7	5	7	3	6	2	4
O	L	T	O	O	A	T	I	A	K	R	R	Y
5	3	6	5	4	6	7	2	8	3	4	6	5
C	E	A	E	H	L	Y	O	L	F	A	E	S
6	8	3	7	5	6	2	7	5	3	8	2	8
I	E	R	F	A	S	P	O	R	I	V	E	E
3	7	5	4	7	6	4	7	5	4	7	2	3
E	C	E	R	U	H	M	S	M	O	E	N	N
2	3	6	8	4	3	4	5	8	7	5	8	3
S	D	I	R	N	S	Y	A	T	D	D	H	A
5	3	6	3	8	3	8	3	8	3	8	6	8
E	D	G	V	O	I	U	C	G	E	H	H	T

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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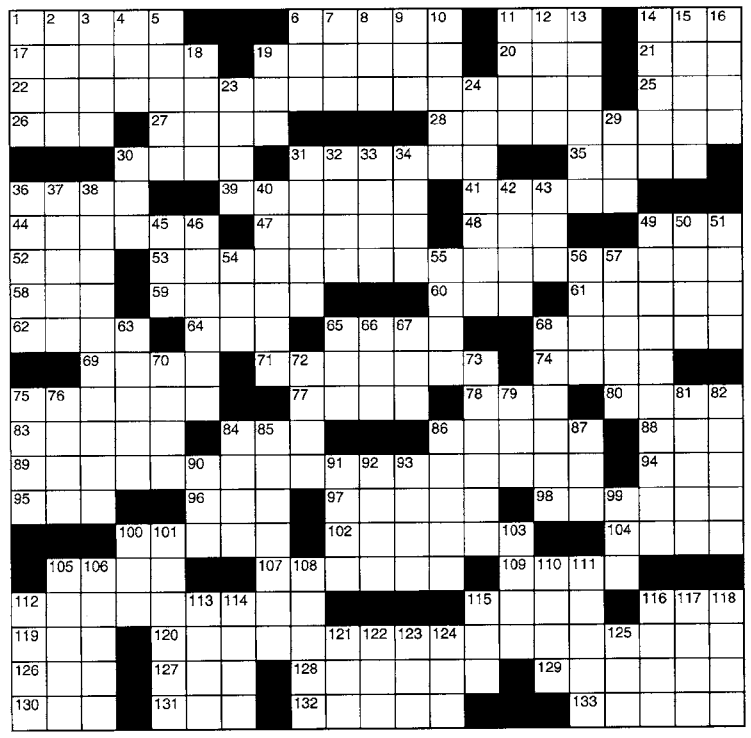
Super Crossword ADD-ONS

ACROSS

1 Two-legged stand
6 Palindromic pirogue
11 Mortarboard
14 Make a muumuu
17 Genesis peak
19 Salad veggie
20 Be obligated
21 Literary collection
22 FILE FILE
25 Diagnostic instr.
26 Bray beginning
27 Luau entertainment
28 Kind of mushroom
30 — Hari
31 Ecclesiastic
35 Evangelist Roberts
36 Mathematician Khayyam
39 '62 Tommy Roe hit
41 Hard wood
44 Injured party
47 Zeal
48 Drink like a Dandie Dinmont
49 Heredity letters
52 SASE, e.g.
53 STRING STRING
58 Antique auto
59 Disinfectant target
60 Compete
61 Quick-footed
62 Pyramid, e.g.
64 — kwon do
65 Gumbo thickener
68 Stephen King book
69 Brazilian kicker
71 Glowing
74 Congregational comeback
75 The Fresh Prince's place
77 Rope fiber
78 Possessed
80 Goblet part
83 Soporific substance
84 "I — Rock" ('66 song)
86 — cotta
88 Exist
89 TRAIL TRAIL
94 New Deal agcy.
95 City in Kyrgyzstan
96 Baby butter
97 Solitary
98 Priest-to-be
100 Mirella of the Met
102 Trustworthy
104 Hide
105 Geometric calculation
107 Red —
109 Throw a party
112 Fleeting
115 Christmas visitors
116 Slangy suffix
119 Yesterday's your
120 CHAIN CHAIN
126 Cratchit kid
127 Bartok or Peron
128 Irregular
129 I specialist?
130 Humorist George
131 Costa — Sol
132 The Brainy Bunch?
133 Greases the wheels

DOWN

1 Fugue composer
2 "Dies —"
3 Unwind a rind
4 Chicago airport abbr.
5 Russian villa
6 Norton or Olin
7 Ginger —
8 Still
9 Word from a Weimaraner
10 Former Japanese capital
11 Musical finale
12 Blew away
13 Non-sexist suffix
14 Pacific islands
15 Register
16 Keen
18 Like some nerves
19 Security grp.
23 Lesage's "Gil —"
24 Rhine siren
29 Attempt
30 Clubber Lang's portrayer
31 — Amboy, NJ
32 General's helper
33 Job opening
34 Biting
36 Public
37 Sal of "Giant"
38 Pull off
40 Novelist Lee
42 Bunyan's ox
43 — -Locka, FL
45 132 Across stats
46 Grumble
49 Contrition
50 Director Mira
51 He's Devine
54 Battery size
55 A Karamazov brother
56 Dire
57 Diamond features
63 Bridges and Brummell
65 Lyric poem
66 Kipling novel
67 Knock
68 Domingo's birthplace
70 Wing or flipper
72 Melville monomaniac
73 "— a Kind of Hush" ('67 hit)
75 '67 Peter Sellers film, with "The"
76 Homer's field
79 Prepare for combat
81 Comic Leon
82 Had in mind
84 Related
85 Curative
86 Article of faith
87 Bunyan's whacker
90 Tina's ex
91 Actor Bert
92 Crooked
93 Torrid or Frigid
99 Prone
100 Charge
101 Pounded a portcullis
103 Defrost
105 Plant pest
106 Versify
108 It may be platinum
110 Inspect too closely?
111 Castle campaign
112 Singer James
113 Roof edge
114 100 dinars
115 Staff
116 Young of "The Last Detail"
117 — majesty
118 Part of M.A.
121 Chemical ending
122 Ford of football
123 Common appliances
124 Swell place?
125 — degree



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of owls called?
2. U.S. STATES: In which state is the Adirondack Park and Forest Preserve located?
3. LANGUAGE: What is a pangram?
4. MOVIES: What movie contained the famous line "They're here"?
5. MEDICAL: What was Viagra originally developed to treat before it became a popular drug to combat erectile dysfunction?
6. GEOGRAPHY: What country has a region called Lombardy?
7. GAMES: Skittles most closely represents what other game?
8. LITERATURE: How many tales are contained in "The Canterbury Tales"?
9. TELEVISION: On which show did the phrase "Sock it to me!" originate?
10. ADVERTISING SLOGANS: What company's slogan is "Can you hear me now"?

ANSWERS

1. A parliament
2. New York
3. A sentence that contains all 26 letters of the English alphabet.
4. "Poltergeist"
5. Angina
6. Italy
7. Bowling
8. 24, aside from the prologue and epilog
9. "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In"
10. Verizon Wireless

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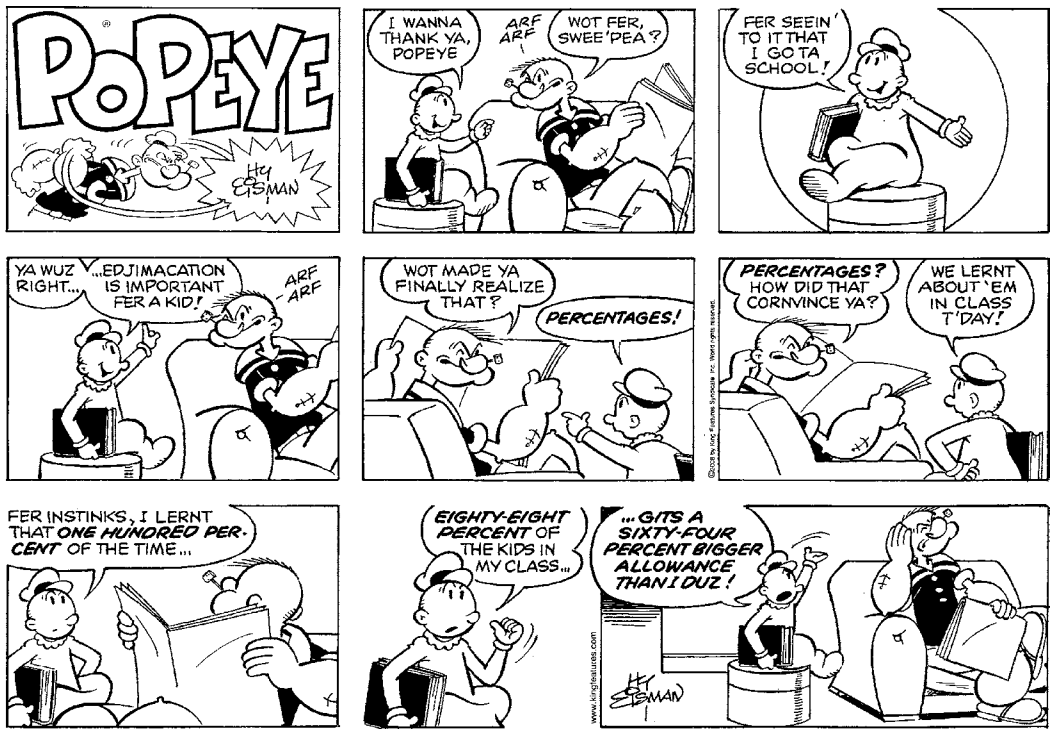
Saturday's Answers


POPEYE
HY EISMAN
I WANNA THANK YA, POPEYE
ARF ARF
WOT FER, SWEE'PEA?
FER SEEIN' TO IT THAT I GO TA SCHOOL,
YA WUZ RIGHT... ...EDJIMACATION IS IMPORTANT FER A KID!
ARF - ARF
WOT MADE YA FINALLY REALIZE THAT?
PERCENTAGES!
PERCENTAGES? HOW DID THAT CORNVINCE YA?
WE LERNT ABOUT 'EM IN CLASS T'DAY!
FER INSTINKS, I LERNT THAT ONE HUNDRED PER CENT OF THE TIME...
EIGHTY-EIGHT PERCENT OF THE KIDS IN MY CLASS...
...GITS A SIXTY-FOUR PERCENT BIGGER ALLOWANCE THAN I DUZ!
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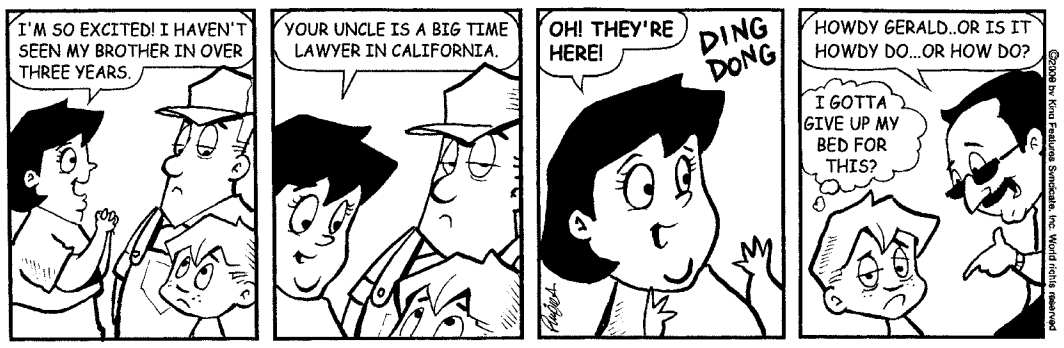
Amber Waves — by Dave T. Phipps


I'M SO EXCITED! I HAVEN'T SEEN MY BROTHER IN OVER THREE YEARS.
YOUR UNCLE IS A BIG TIME LAWYER IN CALIFORNIA.
OH! THEY'RE HERE!
DING DONG
HOWDY GERALD..OR IS IT HOWDY DO...OR HOW DO?
I GOTTA GIVE UP MY BED FOR THIS?

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The Spats — by Jeff Pickering

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THE CHIEF COMPONENT OF LICORICE IS A SWEETENING AGENT, WHICH IS MORE THAN 50 TIMES SWEETER THAN SUGAR AND IS ADDED TO CHOCOLATE TO EXTEND THE SWEETNESS OF SUGAR
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LICORICE ROOT IS USED TO FLAVOR A VARIETY OF FOODS AND BEVERAGES, BUT BY FAR THE GREATEST QUANTITY, PERHAPS AS MUCH AS 90 PERCENT, ENDS UP IN TOBACCO PRODUCTS!
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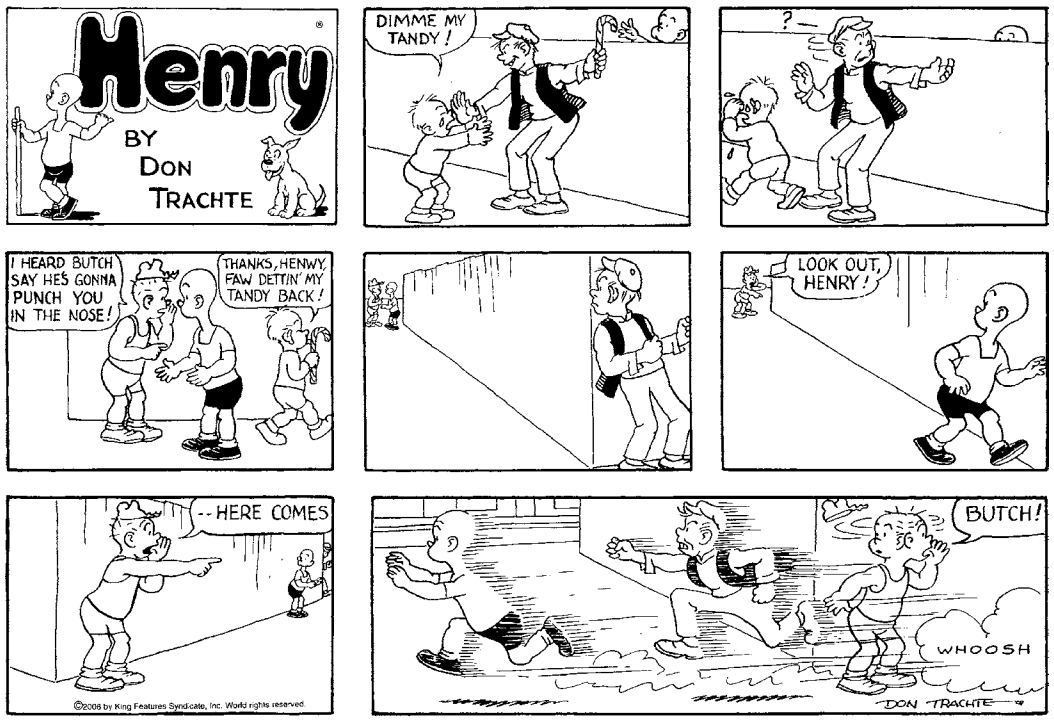
JACK ELROD
More information on licorice can be found on the Internet



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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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WE DO ALL TYPES OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS!
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FREE ESTIMATES

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ONE BR. APT. NEAR MHS, in a quiet, secure area behind Calvo's Market, off Texas Rd. 24hrs. govt. & rain water. Fully air conditioned and furnished with walk in closets. All rooms also have ceiling fans. Has its own washing machine, $425. **Call Ed at 235-0409.**

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$15,000 all inclusive. Stop by to see for yourself. Contact LES @ 898-4866

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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Pierce leads Celtics to 98-88 win in Game 1

BOSTON (AP)—Big moments have defined the Lakers-Celtics blood feud, and in their first get together in 21 years, a kid from Los Angeles gave Boston one to remember.

Paul Pierce, who used to sneak into Lakers games as a youngster, came bounding out of the tunnel from the locker room after leaving with an injured knee and led the Celtics to a tense 98-88 victory over Los Angeles on Thursday night in Game 1 of these tradition-soaked finals.

Pierce's dramatic return after being carried from the court and then wheeled down a hallway for treatment will be added to the annals of Celtics-Lakers lore, taking a spot alongside Magic Johnson's baby sky hook and Kevin McHale's clothesline of Kurt Rambis.

Kevin Garnett scored 24 points, Pierce finished with 22 - 11 after getting hurt - and Ray Allen, the third member of Boston's Big Three, added 19 for the Celtics, who are chasing a 17th NBA championship. The trio was making its first finals appearance, and for a short time it appeared only two of them would finish their long-awaited debut.

In the third quarter, Pierce was deep in the lane when teammate Kendrick Perkins crashed into him from behind, crumpling Boston's No. 34 to the court. The 10-year veteran, who last summer thought his days with Boston might be nearing an end, had to be carried from the court in extreme pain and was taken to Boston's locker room in a wheelchair.

"When I came down I thought I felt a pop, I thought I tore it," Pierce said.

The sight of Pierce leaving drew gasps from some Celtics fans and coach Doc Rivers' heart sunk.

"I thought the worst," Rivers said. "When they carried him off, I just though it was the knee."

However, everyone's worries were soothed just moments later when Pierce returned to Boston's bench and checked back in with 5:04 remaining. As Pierce jogged onto the court with a black elastic wrap on his knee, Garnett clinched a fist and screamed, "Yes!"

AP

Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce (34) celebrates after a three-point shot in the third quarter of Game 1 of the NBA basketball finals against the Los Angeles Lakers on Thursday, June 5, 2008, in Boston.

Soon, more than 18,000 others were screaming as Pierce made two 3-pointers in just 22 seconds to give the Celtics a 75-71 lead.

"When I got in the back I could put some weight on it," Pierce said. "I knew I needed to be out there for my team."

Kobe Bryant led the Lakers with 24 points, but the regular-season MVP was just 9-of-26 from the field as the league's top defensive team kept close tabs on him. Bryant had numerous shots rattle out and spent most of his 42 minutes in the game searching for a rhythm.

Derek Fisher and Pau Gasol had 15 points apiece and Lamar Odom added 14 for the Lakers, who had won the first two games of their previous three series this postseason. Los Angeles will try to even the series in Game 2 on Sunday night.

This is the 11th meeting in the finals between the Celtics and Lakers, and the first one since 1987 has been treated like the return of a lost friend by basketball fans aching for the days when Magic Johnson and Larry Bird went sneaker to sneaker.

Game 1 lived up to the hype as both teams challenged every shot, sprawling for loose balls and intensely defending their baskets. Bill Russell, Bob Cousy, Jerry West and the rest of the greats who made the rivalry special would have been proud.

With their crowd breaking into the familiar "Beat L.A." chants from the outset, the Celtics led 77-73 after three quarters and quickly pushed their lead to eight in the fourth following a 3-pointer by James Posey. Fisher and Sasha Vujacic scored to get the Lakers within 86-82, but Pierce countered with a jumper and made two free throws to put Boston up 90-82.

The Lakers again got within six, but Garnett, who missed nine shots in a row, followed up a miss with a ferocious dunk to crown Boston's win.

Unable to find his shooting touch in the first half, Bryant decided to focus on his defense. After 16-year veteran Sam Cassell came off Boston's bench and scored six quick points at the start of the second quarter, Lakers coach Phil Jackson switched Bryant onto the 38-year-old with the aching back and one of the few Celtics who knows his way around the finals.

Although their superstar wasn't doing his usual thing, the Lakers stayed close, and when Pierce had to sit down after picking up his third foul with 5:14 left, Los Angeles went on a 14-6 run—Gasol and Odom scored four points apiece—to open a 51-46 halftime lead.

Surprisingly, it was Fisher, not Bryant, who led Los Angeles with 13 points and Gasol had 12.

Despite their collective lack of finals experience, the Celtics didn't display any nervousness early. Strangely, it was Bryant who appeared to have some jitters, starting 1-for-7 from the field and not getting any clean looks at the basket.

Allen's 3-pointer from the right wing gave the Celtics a 19-14 lead, but the Lakers got a basket from Jordan Farmar, a 3 by Vujacic and Bryan't second bucket to pull within 23-21 after one quarter.

As the clock ticked down toward tipoff, Celtics fans, some who weren't even alive the last time the NBA's two marquee franchises clashed, scooped up T-shirts and bought other finals souvenirs marking the fierce rivalry's rebirth.

On a section of Union Street, adjacent to historic Faneuil Hall and not far from statues of patriot Sameul Adams and hoops patriarch Red Auerbach, Bostonians young and old warmed up their voices with chants of "Let's Go Celtics" and lubricated their throats before walking en masse toward the new "Gahden," which had never hosted an event of this magnitude.

Weekley shoots 5-under 65, leads at St. Jude

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Boo Weekley made the most of his time after missing the cut in the Memorial, with his work around the greens at TPC Southwind paying off Thursday.

Combining his usual strong ballstriking with efficient putting, Weekley shot a 5-under 65 to take the first-round lead in the Stanford St. Jude Championship. He closed with a birdie on No. 18 to move a stroke ahead of Tommy Armour III.

"I went around there and hit a lot of putts Saturday and Sunday ...," Weekley said. "Being able to go and practice by yourself on a golf cart makes it a lot easier. You're not as tired, and you can work a little bit more out there."

Armour, who shot a 66, had been tied with Weekley at 5 under. But Armour bogeyed his 16th hole about the same time Weekley finished up with his birdie to take the lead to himself in the last tuneup for the U.S. Open.

Vijay Singh survived an afternoon roller-coaster featuring two bogeys, a double bogey, an eagle and five birdies for a 67. Sergio Garcia, The Players Championship winner last month, and Davis Love III were among a group of seven at 68.

Jeff Overton had the lead to himself at 6 under with six birdies through 11 holes. But the Indiana native fell apart with two bogeys over his next three holes and then a double bogey on No. 15 after hitting his second shot way left of the green and failing to roll in a 2-footer. He wound up back at par with a 70.

Kenny Perry, coming off a victory Sunday in the Memorial, is hoping to win consecutive tournaments just as he did back in 2005. He started strong enough with a 32 on his first nine holes, the back nine. But he had four bogeys on the front nine to join defending champ Woody Austin at 71.

Weekley, the Hilton Head winner in April, has had some success at this tournament before. He closed with a 63 in 2002 and tied for 19th before slipping off the PGA Tour and onto the Nationwide circuit. But he missed the cut last year in his first year back on tour.

The Florida native said he likes Memphis and decided to return back to the South instead of sticking around at Muirfield Village after missing the cut. He played nine holes Saturday and 18 on Sunday, using a cart to allow him more time to work on the course.

"Just being able to come out and play early ... might not be an advantage but (at) least gives up a little bit of a head start on what's going to happen the rest of the week. And I think I took that to my advantage today, and the wind has been blowing the same since Saturday as it is today," Weekley said.

Wade on trade rumors: Not happening

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade has a news flash: He doesn't think he's getting traded.

Speaking out Thursday in an effort to defuse numerous reports out of Chicago suggesting the Miami Heat may be willing to trade him to his hometown Bulls, Wade said he's been assured the notion is completely erroneous.

Wade even said he and Heat president Pat Riley have spoken about the topic and to ensure that both remain driven by the same goal—rebuilding Miami into a contender once again.

"I don't worry about that kind of stuff," Wade said in Chicago, where he was holding his annual basketball camp for children. "I never understood why people even worry about it because it is uncontrollable. Your name is going to come up. Things are going to be said. It's not a bad thing. That means you're wanted somewhere or it means people think highly of you. I just laugh at it."

There's been considerable intrigue about the Bulls and Heat in recent weeks, since they hold the No. 1 and No. 2 picks, respectively, in the June 26 NBA draft.

Neither team has been willing to tip its hand about what it wants to do on draft night, but Wade has been saying for weeks that he is committed to getting his body healthy in time for next season and erasing the stigma of Miami's 15-67 record this past season—one where he and just about every other projected Heat starter missed considerable time with injuries.

"While Chicago is home, my commitment is to the Miami Heat," Wade, a four-time All-Star and the MVP of the 2006 NBA finals, said in a statement released to the South Florida Sun-Sentinel.

Wade will be back in Miami this weekend for some charity events, taking a quick break from his rehab regimen in Chicago. He'll be at USA Basketball's Olympic selection minicamp in Las Vegas later this month, and is planning another basketball camp in South Florida in early July.

He has long said the camps are one of the most fulfilling things he does each offseason.

"I always wanted to be a part of one myself and when I was young I never had the opportunity to," Wade said. "Then a parent came up and told me how much it meant to them and they were in tears. From that moment on, I was sold. Every year I just try to do something and hopefully touch the heart of one of these kids and give them a vision and hope that they can make it and that somebody believes in them."

Ivanovic beats Jankovic; faces Safina in final

PARIS (AP)—If official statistics were tallied for fist pumps and self-exhortations during Grand Slam matches, Ana Ivanovic might well have established a record while winning her French Open semifinal.

Perhaps Ivanovic did not raise a clenched hand and let out a yelp after each of the 96 points she earned. It sure did seem that way to the woman she beat 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 Thursday, Jelena Jankovic, who mocked the gesture at least twice, drawing guffaws from fans.

There was plenty at stake, and nerves clearly were raw.

The winner was assured of replacing Maria Sharapova at No. 1 in the rankings, in addition to earning a berth in Saturday's championship match against 13th-seeded Dinara Safina. The younger sister of two-time major champion Marat Safin followed up her twin escape-from-match-point-down, three-set upsets of Sharapova and No. 7 Elena Dementieva with a straightforward 6-3, 6-2 victory over No. 4 Svetlana Kuznetsova to reach her first Grand Slam final.

"I won in two sets," Safina said with a smile. "That's strange for me."

The men's semifinals Friday feature No. 1 Roger Federer vs. unseeded Gael Monfils, and No. 2 Rafael Nadal vs. No. 3 Novak Djokovic.

The No. 2-seeded Ivanovic and No. 3 Jankovic produced a seesaw struggle filled with stretches of alternately brilliant and bad play by two women who are both from Serbia but hardly best friends.

"The match was really emotional," said Ivanovic, twice a finalist at majors but never a champion.

Jankovic led 3-0 at the start. Ivanovic, though, won 16 of 18 points to end the first set, part of a six-game spurt. Then Jankovic used a seven-game run to claim the second set and a 2-0 lead in the third. And, rising to the occasion, Ivanovic took the final three games.

"I let it slip away," acknowledged the 23-year-old Jankovic, who was asked what she would do Thursday night and replied: "I will have some dinner and maybe get drunk."

As for all of her fist pumps and shouts, Ivanovic explained: "It was a way to relieve ... pressure, emotions I was feeling, and it worked well for me today. I didn't think about it. It just came natural."

Twice in the second set, Jankovic turned her back to Ivanovic and mimicked her uppercuts.

"For me, it's really funny the way she does that, and there's nothing wrong with that. I mean, each of us, we have our own way to, how to say, pump ourselves up. The way she does—I just imitated it," said Jankovic, now 0-4 in Grand Slam semifinals.

"I saw her doing that, so that's why I did it," Jankovic said. "The crowd enjoyed it, for some reason."

Jankovic was limited by a right forearm injury that bothered her so much earlier in the tournament that she flew home to Belgrade to visit her doctor. She began the semifinal with a bandage wrapped around the arm, but took it off while trailing in the second set.

AP

Serbia's Ana Ivanovic reacts as she plays compatriot Jelena Jankovic during their semifinal match of the French Open tennis tournament, Thursday, June 5, 2008 at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris.

"I had problems hitting the ball as hard as I could," Jankovic said, "and she was the more powerful one."

Ivanovic finished with a 50-16 edge in winners, but that doesn't indicate just how many terrific baseline exchanges there were, filled with well-angled shots and on-the-run retrieving. On points that lasted at least 10 strokes, Ivanovic won 20, and Jankovic won 19.

"She loves to defend and to run, so you just have to take these kind of risks—and believe," Ivanovic said. "Sometimes it works. Sometimes it doesn't."

At the very end, it worked. After double-faulting to hand Jankovic a 4-3 lead in the final set, Ivanovic turned things around by hitting a forehand winner followed by a backhand passing winner for break points. She converted with a forehand right on a line to get to 4-4.

Ivanovic held to 5-4, then used her best shot—her forehand—to great effect. Her four points in the last game were earned with a forehand return, a drop shot, an inside-out forehand, and a forehand return.

"She kind of woke up," said Ivanovic's coach, Sven Groeneveld.

Each time Ivanovic won a point, Groeneveld was celebrating right along with her, rising from his seat in the player guest box to applaud loudly and shout encouragement. He won't be back in that spot Saturday: Rather than working directly for Ivanovic, he is employed by her apparel sponsor—which she happens to share with Safina.

It was the same situation a year ago, when Ivanovic made her Grand Slam final debut at the French Open and managed to win only three games against the now-retired Justine Henin, another player linked to that sponsor.

Ivanovic was only slightly better in the Australian Open final in January, when she won eight games in a straight-set loss to Sharapova.

"I really hope I can step up this time," Ivanovic said.

Safina's lack of big-match experience certainly didn't hurt against Kuznetsova, who entered the day 3-0 in major semifinals. Neither played particularly well - 46 of 122 points ended with unforced errors. There also were seven breaks of serve in the first 11 games.

"I was too tight," Kuznetsova said, "and she was too confident."

Like her brother - who won the 2000 U.S. Open and 2005 Australian Open—Safina has been known to show flashes of temper, but it was Kuznetsova who smacked one ball into the 12th row behind the opposite baseline after one missed forehand. Even when she double-faulted for the fifth time, Safina simply stood still at the baseline—no scream, no spike of her racket.

As she tried to serve out the match while leading by a set and 5-2 in the second—the precise margin by which she trailed in the fourth round and quarterfinals—Safina fell behind love-30. She would later say that she thought to herself then: "Don't be passive, like the other ones did with me."

Simple as that, Safina won the next four points to end the match. She raised her arms over her head and looked into the stands at her mom, who flashed a thumbs-up sign.

Chipper joins Mantle, Murray in switch-hitter 400 homer club as Braves win

ATLANTA (AP)—Atlanta slugger Chipper Jones hit his 400th career home run Thursday and finished with four hits in the Braves' 7-5 victory over the Florida Marlins in the National League.

Jones, who also boosted his major league-leading season batting average to .418, came out of the dugout for a curtain call as fans cheered his milestone homer in the sixth inning. He became the third switch-hitter to reach 400 home runs, following Hall of Famers Mickey Mantle (536) and Eddie Murray (504).

Atlanta rallied from a 5-3 deficit.

Phillies 5, Reds 0

In Philadelphia, Cole Hamels pitched a three-hitter for his second career shutout, leading Philadelphia over Cincinatti.

The Phillies took advantage of two dropped balls.

Padres 2, Mets 1

In San Diego, New York's Scott Schoeneweis hit San Diego's Paul McAnulty with a pitch with bases loaded in the ninth inning to hand the Padres victory.

Schoeneweis hit McAnulty with a first-pitch fastball in the right shoulder, conceding his fourth walk of the inning.

Cubs 5, Dodgers 4

In Los Angeles, Chicago's Kosuke Fukudome opened the scoring with a solo homer and drove in the game-winning run in the ninth inning to sink Los Angeles.

Fukudome singled to right field off Japanese compatriot Takashi Saito with one out in the ninth inning.

The Cubs have won 10 of 11 and lead the majors with a 39-22 record, their best start since 1977 when they had an identical record. They are 17-3 against NL West teams.

Cardinals 4, Nationals 1, 1st Game Nationals 10, Cardinals 9, 10 innings, 2nd Game

In Washington, St. Louis pitcher Todd Wellemeyer won his fifth straight decision to lead the Cardinals past Washington in the first game of the doubleheader.

Troy Glaus hit a two-run homer and Albert Pujols the first pinch-hit homer of his career for the Cardinals.

Wellemeyer, who hasn't lost in seven starts, allowed five hits in six innings, striking out five while walking only one.

In the second game, Elijah Dukes' two-run, 10th inning home run gave the Nationals a win.

Dukes, who had four hits and four RBIs and finished a double shy of the cycle, homered over the center field wall to help Washington snap a four-game losing streak.

Pirates 4, Astros 3

In Pittsburgh, Paul Maholm pitched eight strong innings to guide Pittsburgh to a tight win over Houston.

Jason Michaels hit a three-run homer for the Pirates.

The Astros have lost seven of eight, even though they scored more than two runs for the first time during that skid.

Maholm allowed only two runs and did not walk a batter. The left-hander retired 20 of the final 23 batters he faced.

Yankees 9, Blue Jays 8

In New York, pinch-hitter Jason Giambi connected for a two-run homer with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, rallying the New York Yankees over the Toronto Blue Jays.

Giambi's drive off closer B.J. Ryan into the right-field upper deck—just inside the foul pole—capped New York's biggest comeback win this season. In erasing a 7-2 deficit, the Yankees overcame another poor outing by Wang Chien-ming and a key error by center fielder Melky Cabrera.

Brought on to protect an 8-6 lead, Ryan (1-2) got two quick outs in the ninth. But Alex Rodriguez singled, moved to second on defensive indifference and scored on Hideki Matsui's single.

Giambi, who didn't start because of a sore left foot, batted for Jose Molina and pulled an 0-2 pitch for his fourth career game-winning homer.

Orioles 3, Twins 2

At Minneapolis, Adam Jones hit a tiebreaking home run in the seventh inning against reliever Brian Bass (2-2) and Baltimore beat Minnesota.

Nick Markakis gave the Orioles a 2-1 lead in the third with his 10th homer, a two-run shot.

Garrett Olson (5-1) tossed 6 1-3 innings, giving up two runs and eight hits.

Twins starter Scott Baker came off the disabled list and threw 99 pitches in five innings. He gave up two runs and five hits.

Red Sox 7, Rays 1

At Boston, Manny Ramirez homered, drove in five runs and got into a shouting match with a teammate as Boston beat Tampa Bay in a game that included a bench-clearing brawl between the teams.

TV cameras showed Ramirez and Kevin Youkilis being separated after exchanging words.

The Red Sox posted their 13th straight home win, matching the majors' longest streak in nearly two years, and completed their second three-game sweep of the Rays.

Jon Lester (4-3), making his first Fenway Park start since his no-hitter against Kansas City May 19, gave up one run and eight hits, struck out five, hit two batters and didn't walk anyone in 6 1-3 innings.

Rangers 9, Indians 4

At Arlington, Michael Young homered and extended his hitting streak to 21 games, and Kevin Millwood shook off a bad first inning to pitch into the seventh for Texas.

Cleveland roughed up Texas pitching for 35 runs and 48 hits in the first three games of the series, then scored four more in the first. Millwood (4-3) settled in after that, retiring 15 in a row.

Cleveland ace C.C. Sabathia (3-8) yielded five runs and nine hits while striking out eight over six innings. The 2007 AL Cy Young Award winner has lost three straight decisions and is winless since May 14.

White Sox 6, Royals 2

At Chicago, Jose Contreras won his fourth straight decision and Jim Thome homered as resurgent Chicago beat Kansas City to complete a three-game sweep.

The sloppy Royals lost their 11th straight road game, one shy of the franchise record.

Contreras (6-3) allowed one run and four hits in seven innings. He hasn't lost since May 4.

Gil Meche (3-8) dropped his third consecutive decision. He gave up four earned runs on seven hits and four walks in 5 2-3 innings.

NBA Finals thoughts: Lakers or Celtics

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Boston Celtics are up 1-0 in their 2007-2008 NBA Finals best-of-seven series against the Los Angeles Lakers after Paul Pierce inspired the green-and-white to a 98-88 victory yesterday at their home floor in the TD Banknorth Garden.

With six games to go, anything can still happen for this year's quest for the Larry O'Brien trophy.

But lovers of the sport, especially the ones who got their initiation to basketball in the '80s in the heyday of Magic, Larry Legend, Kareem, Chief, McHale, and Worthy, are especially giddy about this matchup of NBA titans that have between them 30 championships (16 for the Celtics and 14 for the Lakers).

For me, I'm putting all my chips on the new millennium's version of the Showtime Lakers. Okay, I must admit that used I to be a Kobe-hater but recent events have made me reassess my opinion on No. 24.

Don't get me wrong, I still blame him for the Lakers' pathetic performance in the finals against the Detroit Pistons three years ago. In my book, he's still the culprit behind the Diesel's unceremonious exit from LA, LA Land immediately following that ill-fated season.

But he has shown maturity in his 10th year in the league. The Kobester has also learned to play team ball and this resulted in the Lakers finishing atop the ultra tough Western Conference. In addition, Kobe and his Lakers are a playoff best 12-3 prior to meeting their old nemesis Boston in the Finals.

Outside Kobe, the Lakers also have Pau Gasol (fleeced from Memphis in the mid-season), multi-faceted Lamar Odom, veteran floor leader Derek Fisher, and a bench that is the envy of the whole league.

Zen master Phil Jackson's influence from the bench can't also be ignored as he easily is the stud in his matchup with Boston's player-friendly coach Doc Rivers.

Boston with its Big 3 (Pierce, Kevin Garnet, and Ray Allen) provide a big stumbling block to the Lakers' search for its 15th championship, but having the NBA's deadliest closer surrounded by Gasol, Odom, Fisher, and a superior bench would be too much for Gang Green to overcome. The Lakers in six.

Well, that's just my humble take on the Lakers-Celtics matchup. Below are what other NBA fanatics have to say about the 2008 NBA Finals:

I kind a want the Celtics to win just because I think Kevin Garnet has come a long ways and I would want him to get a ring before he ends his career. He made it to the playoffs a bunch of times with Minnesota but did not have enough support to get over the hill, so I think he has paid his dues and should win one. That's who I want to win.

Shan Seman
Pvt. First Class, U.S. Army

I'll go with Boston. The Big 3 of Ray Allen, Kevin Garnett, and Paul Pierce will be too much for Kobe Bryant to handle on his own. Glen Davis needs to step up in defense to plug the driving lanes and prevent Kobe to work his way inside the paint. Rajon Rondo also needs to stay calm and avoid being rattled by the pressure of being in the playoffs for the first time. Rondo must create situations where the Big 3 could operate freely.

Jon Perez
GMA Interactive

Sorry for the Lakers fans and Kobe Bryant's teammates, but I have this strong dislike for a Kobe-style of play—flashy and selfish.

Too much showmanship is only for All-Star games, not for championship series. Kobe can take all those MVP trophies for his individual plays, but the championship plum belongs to the Celtics, who has a much finesse-brand of play, much deeper bench, and better teamwork.

The Celtics have the Big 3 and other role players who are willing to step up when needed. The Lakers have Kobe, Kobe, Kobe, Kobe, Kobe and Kobe...

Roselyn B. Monroyo
Philippines

Lakers all the way! [The] first-ever pro basketball game ever saw on TV was when Kareem got traded from Milwaukee. Got hooked on the team ever since.

Elias Rangamar
BANMI president

The Lakers in six.

Pierce-Odom and Garnett-Gasol are good matchups, but the boys from Boston have no one who can contain Kobe. Besides, having been born and raised in Philadelphia, I hate the Celtics no matter what.

Michael White
NMASA president

Since I am a Laker fanatic ever since the Kareem Abdul Jabbar and Magic Johnson era I am still going for the Lakers in five games. With the addition of Pau Gasol to the Lakers lineup I think that the Lakers have the edge in all areas. The Laker bench can deliver at anytime with Luke Walton, Farmar, and the other European players that they have. The Lakers starting five is intact with Gasol, Lamar Odom, Radmanovic, Fisher, and Kobe. I still believe that the Lakers starting lineup could matchup with the Celtics starting five.

Abner Venus
BANMI board member

It might go either way. The matchups are even except for Kobe Bryant. Garnet can easily matchup with Gasol and Perkins with Odom. Rondo can take Fisher and Pierce can take Radmanovic. The problem is if Ray Allen can tackle Bryant and if he can get his 3-point shooting mojo back. I want to pick the Lakers but the Celtics deserve the championship better than them. The Big 3 doesn't have one yet. Plus I don't like Kobe that much… aside from him being the best player in the league he is also not worth more than a $100 million, which I can never make in 20 lifetimes. Ah well…blame the genes…

Kitz Barja
Micronesian Brokers, Inc. general manager

I would like to see L.A. take the title. Kobe had a great year with a lot of new players. Kobe played team ball this year and deserves to have an MVP and an NBA championship in the same year.

Jeff Taylor
CNMI National Golfer

ROCK STEADY

From Page 28

Steady. Omar also did well in the win, going 2-for-4 and crossed the plate twice.

Dikito shone for the Falcons, going 3-for-4 at the plate. Iguel and Quitano, meanwhile, were the only batters that drove in runs for Tanapag.

It was the 10th win against no loss for perfect Rock Steady, while the loss dropped the Falcons' record to 6-4.

On Thursday, the Rangers mirrored Rock Steady's four-run explosion in the very first inning before allowing two-win Kabur to creep back in the game at 6-5 in the top of the seventh.

Consecutive errors by Gloyd Martin, however, sealed the deal for Kabur as Clifton Silil's and J.J. Laniyo's home plate crossings made it 8-5 in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Franco Flores, who relieved for starter Dung Tenorio after the fifth, tucked in one more run for good measure in the eighth on an error by Kabur centerfielder Jason Hayes.

Flores got the win after allowing no run in two innings while striking out two Falcons. He also went 1-for-2 at the plate. Ray Guerrero and Craig Sanchez scored two RBIs for the Rangers.

Leo Bobai and Hector Efrain led Kabur in the loss, going a combined 2-for-7 with two RBIs.

Rangers improved to 8-3 with the victory.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	38	25	.603	–
Tampa Bay	35	25	.583	1 1/2
Toronto	32	30	.516	5 1/2
New York	30	30	.500	6 1/2
Baltimore	29	30	.492	7

Central Division

Chicago	33	26	.559	–
Minnesota	31	29	.517	2 1/2
Cleveland	27	33	.450	6 1/2
Detroit	24	35	.407	9
Kansas City	23	37	.383	10 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	37	24	.607	–
Oakland	33	27	.550	3 1/2
Texas	31	31	.500	6 1/2
Seattle	21	39	.350	15 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	36	26	.581	–
Florida	32	27	.542	2 1/2
Atlanta	32	29	.525	3 1/2
New York	30	29	.508	4 1/2
Washington	25	36	.410	10 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	39	22	.639	–
St. Louis	36	26	.581	3 1/2
Milwaukee	32	28	.533	6 1/2
Houston	31	30	.508	8
Pittsburgh	29	31	.483	9 1/2
Cincinnati	29	32	.475	10

West Division

Arizona	32	28	.533	–
Los Angeles	28	32	.467	4
San Francisco	25	35	.417	7
San Diego	25	37	.403	8
Colorado	22	38	.367	10

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 9, Toronto 8
Baltimore 3, Minnesota 2
Boston 7, Tampa Bay 1
Texas 9, Cleveland 4
Chicago White Sox 6, Kansas City 2
Philadelphia 5, Cincinnati 0
St. Louis 4, Washington 1, 1st game
Washington 10, St. Louis 9, 10 innings, 2nd game
Pittsburgh 4, Houston 3
Atlanta 7, Florida 5
San Diego 2, N.Y. Mets 1
Chicago Cubs 5, L.A. Dodgers 4

STANFORD ST JUDE CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)–Scores Thursday from the St. Jude Championship, a $6 million (£4 million) U.S. PGA event at 7,239-yard, par-70 (35-35) TPC Southwind:

First Round

Boo Weekley	34-31	65
Tommy Armour III	33-33	66
Vijay Singh	33-34	67
Davis Love III	35-33	68
Sergio Garcia	35-33	68
Marc Turnesa	34-34	68
Craig Kanada	35-33	68
Cody Freeman	35-33	68
Justin Leonard	32-36	68
Stuart Appleby	32-36	68
Stephen Ames	34-35	69
Dean Wilson	35-34	69
Bart Bryant	34-35	69
Brandt Snedeker	37-32	69
Jonathan Byrd	36-33	69
Charley Hoffman	35-34	69
Michael Bradley	35-34	69
Alex Cejka	34-35	69
Brad Elder	35-34	69
Glen Day	35-34	69
Brett Rumford	35-34	69
Jason Dufner	35-34	69
Vance Veazey	34-35	69
Eric Axley	33-37	70
Dan Forsman	34-36	70
Mark Calcavecchia	36-34	70
Stephen Leaney	35-35	70
Ryan Palmer	37-33	70
J.P. Hayes	37-33	70
Jimmy Walker	33-37	70
Jason Allred	36-34	70
Michael Letzig	32-38	70
Scott Sterling	34-36	70
Jeff Overton	30-40	70
David Duval	33-37	70
Omar Uresti	35-35	70
Jeff Gove	36-34	70
Vaughn Taylor	36-34	70
Rich Beem	37-34	71
Jeff Maggert	34-37	71
Woody Austin	34-37	71
Scott Verplank	36-35	71
Lucas Glover	37-34	71
Marco Dawson	37-34	71
Webb Simpson	36-35	71
John Huston	35-36	71
Camilo Villegas	36-35	71
Brandt Jobe	35-36	71
Jay Williamson	36-35	71
Bill Haas	37-34	71
Kenny Perry	39-32	71
Padraig Harrington	35-36	71
Robert Allenby	36-35	71
Jim McGovern	36-35	71
Y.E. Yang	34-37	71
Tom Pernice, Jr.	38-34	72
Harrison Frazar	35-37	72
Bob Tway	36-36	72
Chris Smith	37-35	72
Chad Campbell	37-35	72
John Daly	37-35	72
Garrett Willis	37-35	72
Richard S. Johnson	36-36	72
Chris Rogers	35-37	72
Fred Funk	35-37	72
David Toms	37-35	72
Ken Duke	38-34	72
Tim Clark	32-40	72
Bob Burns	37-36	73
Fredrik Jacobson	36-37	73
Heath Slocum	37-36	73
Charles Howell III	37-36	73
Kevin Stadler	37-36	73
Robert Gamez	38-35	73
Tim Petrovic	36-37	73
Jay Delsing	38-35	73
Jin Park	36-37	73
Gavin Coles	38-35	73
Mike Heinen	35-38	73
Brenden Pappas	34-39	73
Patrick Sheehan	36-37	73
Larry Mize	37-36	73
Jesper Parnevik	37-36	73
Brian Davis	37-36	73
Bob Heintz	33-40	73
Kris Cox	33-40	73
Todd Demsey	36-37	73
Danny Briggs	38-35	73
Doug LaBelle II	38-35	73
Chris Riley	37-37	74
Cameron Beckman	37-37	74
Trevor Immelman	35-39	74
Tim Herron	36-38	74
Mark Brooks	38-36	74
Tag Ridings	38-36	74
Kevin Streelman	37-37	74
Brad Adamonis	36-38	74
Bob Estes	35-39	74
Troy Matteson	35-39	74
Shaun Micheel	39-35	74
Frank Lickliter II	37-37	74
Tom Byrum	37-37	74
Ron Whittaker	37-37	74
Paul Claxton	39-35	74
Richard Johnson	38-36	74
Dicky Pride	37-38	75
Mathias Gronberg	37-38	75
Tim Wilkinson	35-40	75
Retief Goosen	35-40	75
Tom Scherrer	38-37	75
John Riegger	37-38	75
Travis Perkins	35-40	75
Kyle Thompson	36-39	75
Casey Wittenberg	37-38	75
Ryan Armour	38-37	75
Bob May	36-39	75
Steve Lowery	38-37	75
Corey Pavin	38-37	75
Olin Browne	37-38	75
J.L. Lewis	38-37	75
Grant Waite	35-40	75
Chris Stroud	36-39	75
Justin Bolli	39-36	75
Charlie Wi	38-38	76
Brian Gay	39-37	76
Billy Andrade	36-40	76
Charles Warren	38-38	76
Craig Barlow	40-36	76
Bob Sowards	39-37	76
Chad Collins	41-35	76
Brent Geiberger	37-40	77
Jamie Lovemark	37-40	77
Scott McCarron	36-41	77
Carlos Franco	39-38	77
Ted Purdy	39-38	77
Chris DiMarco	39-38	77
Nicholas Thompson	37-40	77
Andrew Buckle	36-41	77
Jonathan Kaye	35-43	78
Cliff Kresge	35-43	78
Len Mattiace	40-38	78
Bo Van Pelt	35-43	78
Joe Durant	37-41	78
Lucas Wald	39-39	78
Martin Laird	39-39	78
John Morse	39-40	79
Russ Cochran	40-39	79
Jim Gallagher, Jr.	41-38	79
David Lutterus	38-41	79
Paul Goydos	40-40	80
Tommy Gainey	38-42	80
Notah Begay III	40-40	80
Steve Allan	36-47	83
Kelvin Burgin	41-43	84
Michael Allen	DQ	

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

BSML STANDINGS

Rock Steady	10	0
Ford Rangers	8	3
Tanapag Falcons	6	4
San Roque D9ers	5	4
Koreans Dreams	5	5
Komoro	4	7
Team Kabur	2	9
O'Conner Tigers	1	9

NBA Finals thoughts: Lakers or Celtics

The Boston Celtics are up 1-0 in their 2007-2008 NBA Finals best-of-seven series against the Los Angeles Lakers after Paul Pierce inspired the green-and-white to a 98-88 victory yesterday at their home floor in the TD Banknorth Garden.

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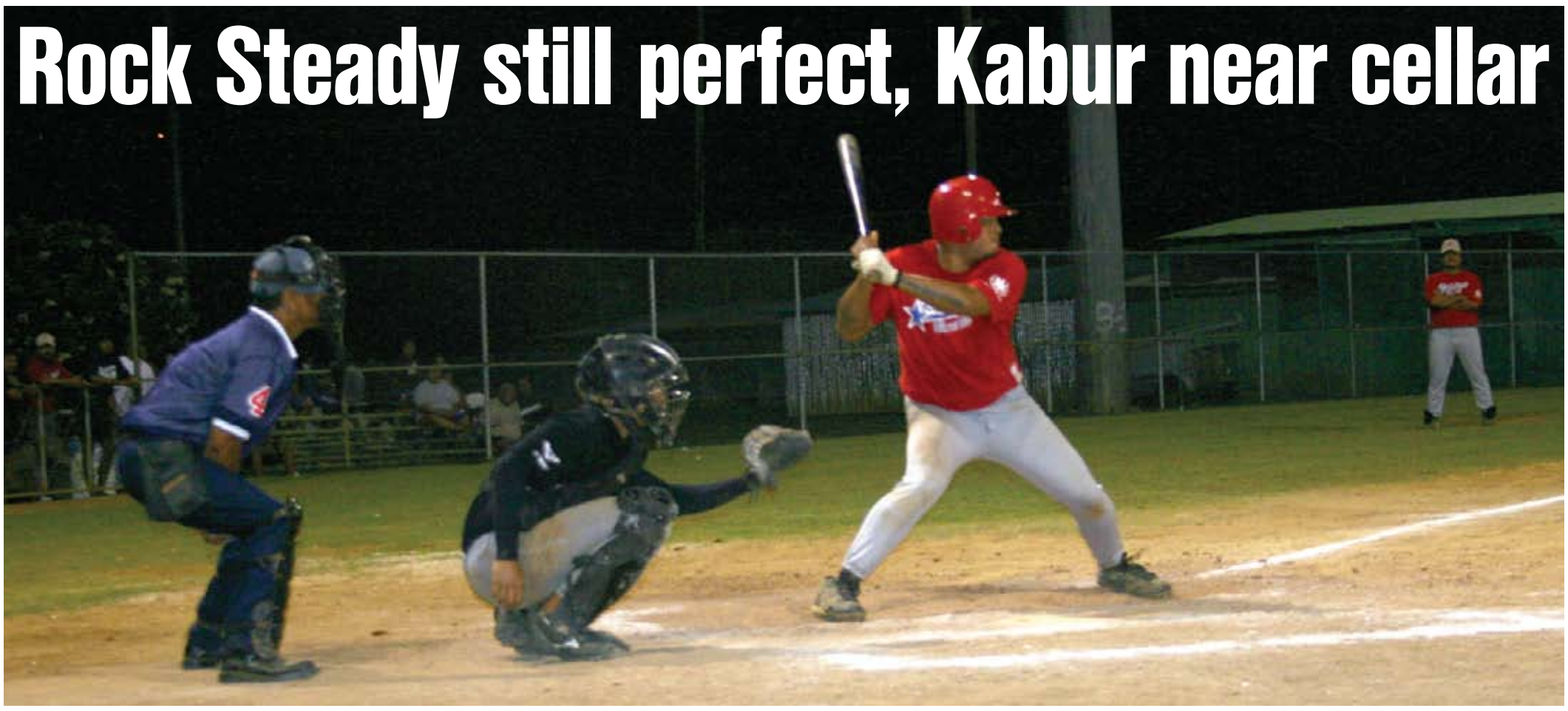
Saipan Tribune
Sports

Pierce leads Celtics to 98-88 win in Game 1

Big moments have defined the Lakers-Celtics blood feud, and in their first get together in 21 years, a kid from Los Angeles gave Boston one to remember.

25

Rock Steady still perfect, Kabur near cellar



MARK RABAGO

Rock Steady's Dane Lizama awaits the pitch from Tanapag Falcons pitcher Pete Tegeita in the seventh inning of their 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League game Wednesday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Rock Steady was solid in its outing against the Tanapag Falcons, 7-4, while Kabur remained near the cellar following a 9-5 loss to the Ford Rangers as the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League continued Wednesday and Thursday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Going up against the defending champions last Wednesday, Rock Steady charged right out of the gates by scoring four runs in the very first inning, highlighted by rightfielder Roy Celis' two RBI single that brought home Manny Sablan and Byron Kaipat.

Starting pitcher Nick San Nicolas, meanwhile, was solid from the mound, shutting out the Falcons in the first two innings with 1-2-3 outings in the first and second innings before giving up two singles to J.D. Dikito and Henry Iguel in the third with the latter scoring on an RBI by the former.

The Falcons tucked in one more run in the fifth when Dustin Quitano scored Dikito to peg the score at 4-2, still in favor of Rock Steady.

That two-run margin would not last long though as Dane Lizama drove in Tyrone Omar and Lizama crossed home plate on a sacrifice fly by Celis to make it 6-2 in favor of the Rangers.

San Nicolas, who played his last game for Rock Steady to fulfill his commitment to the Saipan Big League All-Stars, would then hold his own against the Tanapag hitters the rest of the game.

He would limit the Falcons to three singles the rest of the way while registering five strikeouts to affirm his reputation as one of the islands' best pitching prospects.

If not for an error by catcher Manny Sablan in the sixth and a miscue by Lizama from his shortstop position in the eighth, the Falcons would have stayed nailed at two runs.

Oliver Secharmidal and Byron Kaipat conspired for Rock Steady's seventh run when the latter drove in the former in the bottom of the seventh inning.

San Nicolas went on to record 12 strikeouts in no relief while surrendering four runs on six hits. He was also assessed an error, two walks, and a bean ball.

Lizama went 4-for-5 from the plate on top of two RBIs and scored two runs for Rock

See ROCK STEADY on Page 27

Junior League All-Star starters named

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Manager Vinnie Sablan has named his three starters for the 2008 Junior League District Tournament that kicks off today at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Sablan, who led the Jets to a runner-up finish in the Saipan Junior League behind Lion Heart, said he will hand the ball to pitchers Lamarc Iguel, Harry Nakamura, and Michael Tenorio in the Saipan Junior All-Stars' three-game series against the Tinian Junior All-Stars.

The Wells Fargo credit manager said while he and his staff—head coach Wally Emul and assistant coach Oliver Secharmidal—have the option to utilize their entire pitching staff against the Junior Leaguers from Tinian, he said the team is best served by relying on their starters.

"For the three games, we have at least seven pitchers. We could use all of them or we could use one or two in each game but we'll try to strategize and play it safe and not try to use everybody in one game," he said.

Nakamura was simply outstanding on the mound for the Jets last season, finishing with a 2.42 earned run average, which was tops in the Junior League. He also did damage with his swing as proven by his .363 batting average.

Sablan

Iguel,meanwhile, finished with a 3.40 ERA, including 25 strikeouts, on top of a .419 batting average for Ol'Aces last season. Tenorio, for his part, led the Junior League in strikeouts with 26 while playing for the Fielders.

Other members of Sablan's pitching staff are Jets' Joe Palacios (23 strikeouts) and Fielders' Nathan Guerrero (4.65 ERA).

The rest of the 2008 Saipan Junior League All-Star are Ol'Aces catcher Jessie Yamagishi (two home runs) and Lion Heart catcher Ricardo Dela Cruz (.361 batting average).

The infield is made up of Lion Heart first baseman Richard Dela Cruz (.472 batting average and six triples), Ol'Aces second baseman Diego Camacho (.293 batting average), Lion Heart third baseman Leroy Regis (.429 batting average and 23 strikeouts), Jets shortstop Anthony Salas (regular season batting leader with .626 batting average and six triples), Ol'Aces leftfielder Rocco Reyes (.417 batting average), Jets centerfielder McGarret Duenas (.413 batting average), and Jets rightfielder Justin Kintol (.389 batting average).

Sablan also thanked the players' parents for being with their kids all throughout the season and molding them into great individuals.

"[I would like to thank them for] giving us a chance to put some discipline into them and having them here for all the hours that we train. I also want to thank the Little League [Baseball] Association for leading us and getting us prepared and the companies that support the Little League District and Asia-Pacific tournaments," he said.

The Saipan Junior League All-Stars manager also invited the public to support the island's all-stars at the Oleai Sports Center this Saturday and Sunday.

"These kids are representatives of the CNMI and of Saipan especially. They're ambassadors of our islands. We expect them to represent our islands in the best way and that's by winning and getting our kids to the highest level of play which is the 2008 World Series," said Sablan.

RGA June Ace tomorrow

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold its June Ace of the Month Tournament tomorrow, June 8, at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Tournament director Jess Wabol said check-in time for the event is 11am with tee off set an hour later at 12pm. As many as 16 players can play in the weekend golf game.

Score to beat in the June Ace is Jordan Kossam's net score of 64 that he fired during the June Ace of the Month qualifier held last May 25 at the Koblerville golf course.

Kossam beat 13 other aspirants for the qualifying top score after going 44 in the front nine and 39 in the back for a gross score of 83, which minus his 19 handicap, gave him the score to beat in tomorrow's monthly competition.

Louie Tilipao finished second with his net 66 (80 gross, 38-42, 14 handicap), while third place went to Bae Young Man with his net 67 (69, 37-32, two).

The rest of the field that played last May 25, with their net scores in parenthesis, were as follows: Joe Lizama (72), Tars Olopai (72), Ed Tenorio (73), Jess I. Wabol (73), Joe Wabol (75), Asterio Tawanpiy (76), Joe Mafnas (78), Adam Hardwicke (78), Ullyses Kapileo (81), and Michael Stewart (82).

In related news, RGA reminded the public that that the club has halved its membership dues for 2008 from the long-standing fee of $50 to only $25.

This happened after RGA recognized the hard economic times and decided to give its members and future members a break by slashing the cost of becoming part of RGA.

The club hopes that by making membership in RGA a little lighter in the pocket, more weekend warriors will now return to the golf links and renew their membership or apply as new members of the golf club.

For more information about RGA's new membership policies and other competitions held by the club, contact president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926 or tournament director Jess I. Wabol at 233-3673. ***(Mark Rabago)***